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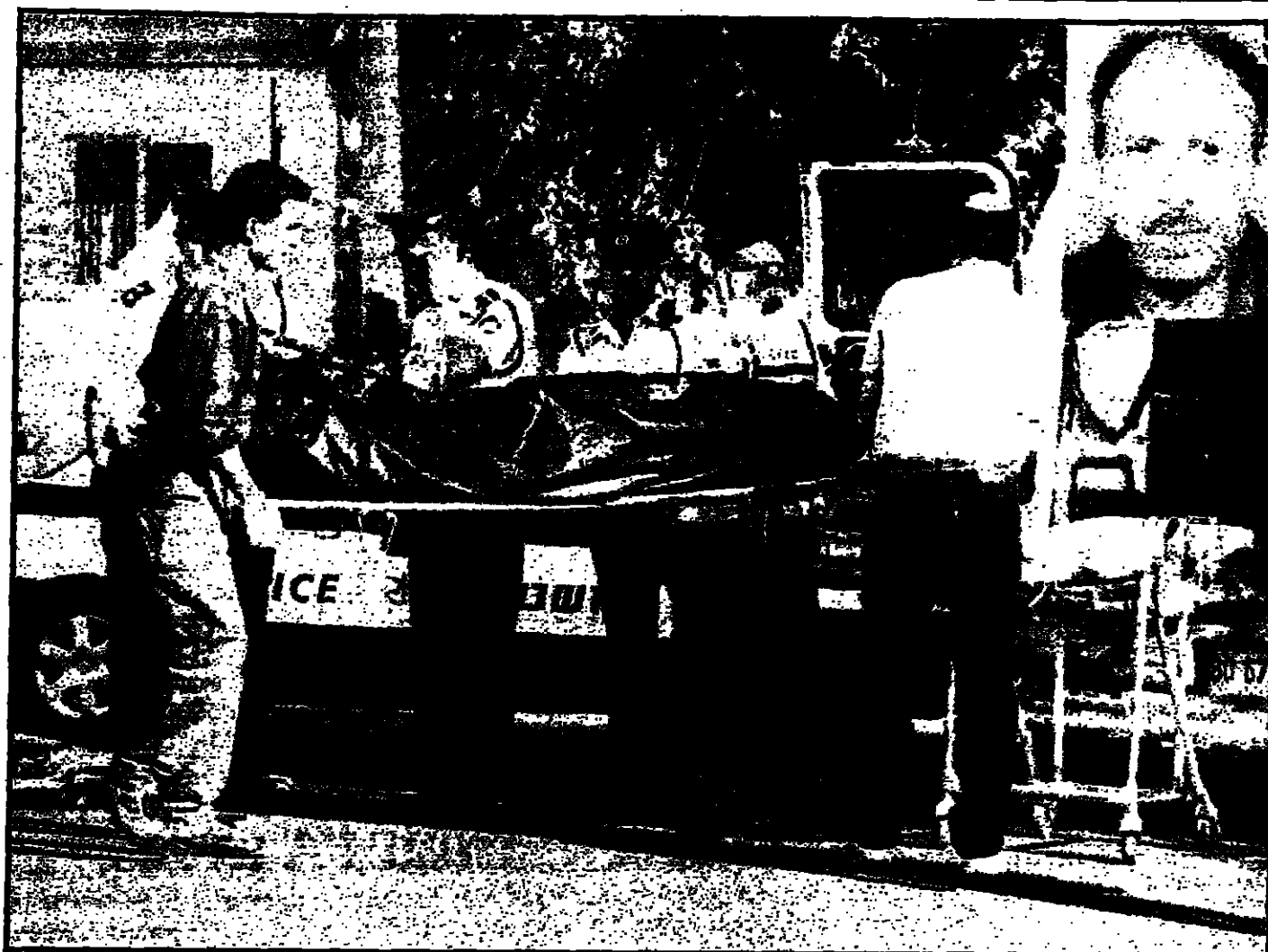
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## AGENDA

### Collision course

At the end of her dramatic press conference on the Middle East peace process this week, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright hurried to the Capitol for a meeting with a group of congressmen known to be supporters of Israel. This was the last in a series of meetings which she held on the eve of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's arrival. They were aimed at reducing the political fallout likely to affect President Bill Clinton following the Israeli counter-attack against increasing American pressure. Key Jewish activists relate how, immediately after Netanyahu announced at the weekend that he would not be attending the summit meeting with Yasser Arafat at the White House, administration officials attempted to persuade him to cancel his participation in the APEC convention, due to take place next Sunday.

See AGENDA, Page 6



Police remove the body of Khairi Alkam (inset), who was stabbed to death yesterday morning in the Mea She'arim section of Jerusalem. (Brian Headler)

## Capital serial stabber kills first victim

By ELLI WOHLGELER

An Arab construction worker was knifed to death in Jerusalem early yesterday morning on his way to work in what police say is the work of a serial anti-Arab stabber. The assailant has struck six times in the last three months in and around the haredi neighborhoods of Mea She'arim and adjacent Beit Yisrael. Khairi Alkam, 51, from the city's A-Tur neighborhood, was the first fatality of the six knifings. He was the father of nine. "With near certainty I can say there is a link between the incidents, including the incident this morning, aside from the fact this incident is fatal," said Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki. "It seems that this is the act of one person. However, we are not ruling out the possibility that additional people were involved." Police are theorizing that the assailant is a Jew avenging attacks on Jews by Arabs. The other stabbings occurred on

February 17, March 10, March 12, April 29, and May 7. In five of the stabbings, the attacker left his knife at the scene. Police also are investigating a connection between the stabber and three firebomb attacks on an apartment in which three young Arab women live at the edge of Mea She'arim. One of the firebombings occurred the night of the April 29 stabbing. No one was injured in the three firebombings, but the second one, on November 30, severely damaged the apartment's entrance. The first occurred October 13. Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said police are not certain the stabbing perpetrator is from the Mea She'arim area. "We simply don't know at this point," he said. Ben-Ruby said a special seven-man unit has been working full-time on the series of stabbings. Police detained a suspect earlier yesterday but later released him. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said it is unfair to criticize police

for not taking the necessary measures in the investigations of murdered Arabs. "We don't always find the murderers of Jews, and we don't always find the murderers of Arabs," Olmert said. "It takes time, it takes a lot of effort, and it's not easy. I know that the police are making every possible effort to find out who is responsible for the murder of Arabs." Alkam was buried at the Moslem cemetery in the Old City yesterday evening. The family asked that no Jewish officials attend the funeral. Steve Rodan and Mohammed Najib add: The Palestinian Authority and Hamas condemned Alkam's killing. One Palestinian legislator charged that he was slain by a newly formed Jewish extremist group. Alkam's family said he went to morning prayers at a mosque and at about 5 a.m. left for his job at a construction site in the Har Hotzvim Industrial Park in north-

western Jerusalem. Palestinian Legislative Council member Hatem Khader said that at about 5:10 a.m. a group of what he said were Jewish settlers attacked Alkam. "This is not the first time a [Palestinian] citizen has been stabbed," Abdul Khader said. "This is the sixth stabbing in less than four months. We view this with extreme gravity." "We have information that confirms that a Jewish terrorist militia is working in the Jerusalem area against Arab citizens," he said. "We had warned Israel many times that it must set limits on the practice of settlers, but the terrorist aggressions against Palestinian citizens are increasing." Abdul Khader added that he believes the Alkam killing will spark Palestinian revenge attacks in eastern Jerusalem. PA Chairman Yasser Arafat called the Alkam killing a "great crime" and said it was the work of Jewish settlers. He did not elaborate.

## No progress in DC talks

PM, Albright to meet again today

By JAY BUSHINSKY and news agencies

WASHINGTON — Talks here yesterday between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright aimed at getting the peace process back on track broke up after 90 minutes. While there was no indication whether headway was made, the State Department announced that Netanyahu and Albright would meet again today "in a continuation of this effort to overcome remaining differences." Albright left the downtown hotel where the talks were held immediately after the session without making any comment. Officials said working groups representing Israel and the US would continue the dialogue in the interim, in an effort to find a formula for an IDF withdrawal in the West Bank that would be acceptable to the Palestinian Authority. Israel Radio last night quoted a senior Israeli source in Washington as saying that the two sides were discussing a previously reported possibility of staging the second redeployment in two phases — the first of 9 percent and the second of unstated size, after the Palestinians fulfill a series of obligations. Netanyahu has denied knowledge of any two-stage plan. Netanyahu went into his meeting with Albright in a feisty mood. The session took place in the prime minister's hotel less than five hours after his Israel Air Force jet landed at Washington Airport. The prime minister expressed regret that National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon had refused at the last minute to join him at the talks and also had declined to confer with him in advance of the crucial meeting with Albright. "It is essential to support the prime minister," he said. Asserting that he is in the midst of a "difficult campaign," Netanyahu told Israeli reporters that it is necessary "to stand shoulder to shoulder opposite the Americans." He denied that he has been keeping the inner cabinet in the dark about his discussions with American intermediaries. Sharon has accused Netanyahu of making commitments to the US peace team without cabinet authorization. Without specifying the exact percentage of West Bank territory from

which the IDF could withdraw, Netanyahu expressed pride in having "lowered the Palestinians' expectations" by reducing the area being considered for evacuation "from 90% to 13%." He added that he has no doubt he will be able to get the projected redeployment through the cabinet and the Knesset. Netanyahu said the Palestinian Authority does not merit any territorial flexibility or compromise on Israel's part. "There has been no abrogation of the Palestinian National Covenant by the Palestinian National Council," he said, noting that Arafat had promised to revise the covenant in a letter to President Bill Clinton. "Why is it so difficult to convene the PNC?" he asked. Netanyahu also charged that the PA has not acted effectively or consistently in trying to suppress terrorist activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He termed this an outright violation of the Hebron Agreement, despite the fact that it was concluded under American auspices. Hours before Netanyahu and Albright sat down, Clinton and Albright's spokesman sought to underscore Israel's strong ties with the United States. In Potsdam, Germany, Clinton said the administration is not prescribing all the terms for a settlement, but only trying to guide Israel and the Palestinians "over the hurdle" of a stalemate. Clinton said he is "hoping we can find an agreement based on the ideas we've presented." "We haven't tried to find a formula to resolve all the issues," Clinton told reporters. "We've tried to find a formula to get them over the hurdle." Following his afternoon meeting with Albright, Netanyahu was to go to Capitol Hill, where he already has considerable support for his position on the US withdrawal formula. At the State Department, spokesman James Rubin said, "Our ideas are virtually identical with the essential elements of the desires of the prime minister.... We believe Israel is engaged in an effort with us to put the peace process back on track." However, Clinton cautioned that "far more bad things are likely to happen than good things" with delay. And Rubin cautioned, "This phase of our efforts is rapidly drawing to a close."

## EU to probe origin of Israeli exports

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

BRUSSELS — The European Union said yesterday it will investigate new claims that products entering the EU under a "Made in Israel" label are in fact produced elsewhere, allowing Israeli exporters to claim illegal customs concessions. In a document on EU-Israeli trade ties, the EU executive commission said it suspects that many of these goods are Palestinian products originating in "east Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, West Bank, and Gaza Strip." "There is ample evidence that the practices of exporting Palestinian products under Israeli certificates of origin apply to a substantial proportion of total exports into the EU of Palestinian originating products," a statement by the commission said. It also said that Israeli trade barriers impede Palestinian economic development. The Foreign Ministry said in response that Israel considers the document a blatant infringement of the Paris Agreements between itself and the Palestinian Authority. The 1994 agreements are part of the Oslo Agreements and determine a single customs envelope between Israel and the Palestinians. The commission's intervention will damage the economic relations between Israel and the Palestinians, a ministry statement said. It added that the commission's one-sided document constitutes an attempt to prejudice Israel's borders, before these have been duly determined within the framework of negotiations with its neighbors. "Israel calls upon Council of Ministers to refrain from taking one-sided steps which could harm the peace process," the statement said. The commission said false labeling has allowed exporters to claim millions of dollars in customs concessions. The estimated loss to the EU is \$44 million.

See EU, Page 3

## US alone on India sanctions

By PAUL TAYLOR

LONDON (Reuters) — US President Bill Clinton's imposition of economic sanctions on India for its widely condemned nuclear tests won scant support from his allies and partners yesterday. The divergent reactions made it clear that, while leaders of the Group of Eight industrialized nations will unite in condemning India, there is no prospect of them agreeing on joint sanctions at a summit this weekend in Birmingham, England. In a clear shift from the lineup of major powers in the standoff

took largely symbolic punitive action. But Britain, usually Washington's staunchest European ally, joined France and Russia in opposing sanctions, while Germany was non-committal. The divergent reactions made it clear that, while leaders of the Group of Eight industrialized nations will unite in condemning India, there is no prospect of them agreeing on joint sanctions at a summit this weekend in Birmingham, England. In a clear shift from the lineup of major powers in the standoff

with Iraq over its suspected weapons of mass destruction earlier this year, the US appeared to be alone in taking serious action. Clinton signed into immediate effect measures that will require the US to oppose loans to India by international lending agencies such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. "I believe they were unjustified," he said of the tests. "They clearly create a dangerous new instability in their region." See INDIA, Page 2

## India tests pose a threat to Israel

By DAVID RUDGE

India's nuclear tests could indirectly pose a threat to Israel, according to Haifa University security specialist Prof. Gabriel Ben-Dor. "I think this is very bad for Israel from several points of view," said Ben-Dor, head of the university's National Security Studies Program. "Firstly, it raises the question of punitive US action against India which might, in the future, be considered a precedent

for similar action against Israel." Ben-Dor noted that Israel, like India, has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. "Secondly, and this is even more significant, the Indian tests are likely to give momentum to the Pakistani nuclear program and give it more legitimacy," he said. "This is certainly bad from our point of view, because the Pakistani nuclear program is supposed to be the source of the so-called Islamic bomb." "This is turn might become

accessible, one way or another at a later stage, to various Islamic and Arab countries, including Iran. There is really no need to explain why this would be bad for us." "From these two perspectives, the nuclear tests conducted by India are bad news, quite apart from the instability that this is likely to cause in Asia itself." Ben-Dor added that Pakistan is likely to give its own nuclear program national priority "no matter what the cost," unless extremely strong action is taken against India.

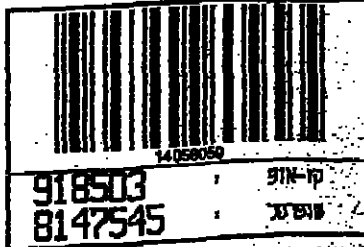
## At least 10 killed in IAF strike on terror base

By DAVID RUDGE and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

At least 10 people were killed and over 20 wounded in an IAF attack on a training base of a Palestinian terrorist group in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon early yesterday. The air raid was aimed at a base of the Syrian-backed Abu Musa group near Ta'anael, only a few kilometers from the Syrian border. The area is under the umbrella of Syria's anti-aircraft missile batteries, although none was fired during the air raid which took place shortly after 1 a.m. The precision strike apparently was aimed at preventing a planned attack on Israeli targets by the organization, which broke away from the mainstream Fatah in 1983 and is opposed to the peace process. According to reports from Lebanon, IAF planes came in from the Mediterranean, flew across the country and hit the base in at least three separate sorties, taking the terrorists by surprise while they were asleep. The IDF Spokesman issued a statement saying that the pilots reported accurate hits and that all

the planes returned safely to base. Senior IDF sources said that the raid had been planned well in advance. The Abu Musa organization is not considered very strong. It has carried out a number of raids, but the last one was an attempt to infiltrate Israel from near Mt. Dov over a year ago. Senior defense officials insisted that no civilians were killed or wounded in the attack and that Israel was not interested in harming the understandings reached with Hizbullah during the Grapes of Wrath operation two years ago, which bar attacks on civilians on both sides. "This target was chosen because it was isolated and inhabited only by terrorists," said one very senior defense official. "The results were good. We haven't had such good results in a long time." He said he did not believe the raid would spark a retaliation, but warned Hizbullah not to escalate tensions. "This is a hint to other organizations that it is best to weigh their steps," he said. Defense officials said that the air raid was not linked with the latest Hizbullah rocket and mortar attack on IDF targets along the

northern border. The IDF Spokesman said the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group had determined that Lebanon had breached the understandings because of mortar rounds that exploded northwest of Kibbutz Manara on Monday night. The five-nation committee concluded its deliberations early yesterday into five complaints by Israel and three from Lebanon. The statement said the monitoring group also determined that Lebanon had breached the understandings because Hizbullah had fired mortars from Majdal Salim village, north of the zone. The monitoring group determined that South Lebanese Army shelling towards villages in which seven civilians were wounded was in response to attacks by Lebanon on the security zone, the statement said. The air raid was denounced by Hizbullah, which issued a statement saying that it "shows Israel's true colors" which are not directed toward peace. Similar comments were expressed in the Syrian press after the heavy exchanges in the region on Monday night following Hizbullah's attacks on IDF posts.





Following stabbing death of yeshiva student

# PM orders security plan for Old City

By ELLI WOHLGELER

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ordered the police to prepare a detailed new security plan for Jerusalem's Old City. The plan is to include stationary police points, which can maintain eye contact with one another, along the main thoroughfare from the Western Wall to the Damascus and Jaffa gates.

The directive follows the stabbing death last Wednesday of Ateret Cohanim yeshiva student Haim Kerman, who was killed while on his way to sunrise services at the Western Wall.

Netanyahu convened a meeting in his office late Tuesday night, hours before his departure to Washington, at the suggestion of MK Hanan Porat. Those in attendance included Porat, General Security Service head Ami Ayalon, Police Inspector-General Yehuda Wilk, Jerusalem District Police Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki, and three representatives from Ateret Cohanim: director Matti Dan; Rabbi Avi Ronsky, a teacher at the yeshiva; and Segui Ben-Ya'acov, the school's security officer.

Ateret Cohanim presented Netanyahu with a detailed security

proposal, which centered on creating a new elite unit to maintain safe-passage corridors along Haggai Street, a main north-south street, and David Street, the main souk street, both of which lead to the Western Wall.

The proposal calls for the new unit to be in eye-to-eye contact along the length of the streets, an idea that has long been promoted by Ateret Cohanim, especially when its leaders met with Netanyahu two days after the murder of student Gavriel Hirschberg on November 20.

"The main thing that we asked for is real security, in the face of the dreadful murder," said Porat. "I'm very anxious about the situation there, what's going on today. We demanded to receive answers that were far more meaningful in the face of the increased violence and the level of hostility."

At the end of the meeting, Netanyahu ordered Yitzhaki to prepare a plan and a budget this week while the prime minister was in America, which would be discussed immediately upon his return.

"I think that the prime minister understands the gravity of the situation," said Dan. "We're

speaking here about freedom of access to the holy sites - it can't be that a man can't get to the Kotel; it is the basis of our hold on Jerusalem. Just like a Moslem can get to the Temple Mount area, and a Christian to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, so a Jew has to get to the Western Wall."

Dan said that he views the Old City as a homogeneous area, and that "if this sort of attack can take place in one quarter, then it can take place in another. So [beefing up the security] would also be beneficial to the Christians and Moslems."

The proposal would also rearrange the present escort system by having the yeshiva's private security personnel escort residents from the police booths, instead of from the Western Wall.

Porat said he hoped that the police will prepare their plan taking into account "in a very significant way the state of security as it today. That was our request, and that was what [Netanyahu] agreed to. I very much hope that the meeting will prove effective. The test will really come if it's put into action."



## Holiday roast

Jerusalem children gather at a bonfire last night to mark Lag Ba'omer, as similar festivities were held throughout the country. At the main festivities, pilgrims gathered at Mount Meron near the tomb of the 2nd century Talmudic sage, Rabbi Shimon Bar-Yochai. By mid-afternoon around 40,000 people had already converged on Mt. Meron and by evening all parking lots in the surrounding area were full. In Safed, celebrants paraded through the streets, taking an ancient Torah from the Abu family home to Mt. Meron for the 165th consecutive year. Lag Ba'omer marks the 33rd day of the counting period (omer) between Pesach and Shavuot. A plague that devastated Torah scholars during the Roman era abated on Lag Ba'omer, according to Talmudic texts.

(Text: David Rudge; photo: Bryan McBurney)

# PA calls for orderly 'million-man' protest

By STEVE RODAN

The Palestinian Authority has called for today's "million-man march" commemorating 50 years of resistance to Israel to be orderly. It urged demonstrators not to clash with troops, but the IDF has beefed up forces to brace for violence.

PA officials stressed that its security forces will maintain order in marches throughout the territories and urged demonstrators not to be diverted from the message of unity symbolized by today's protest.

"Hassan Kashef, the coordinator of the march in Gaza, said he expects tens of thousands of Palestinians to march from Rafah and Khan Yunis north to Gaza City. Along the route, they will pass the Jewish settlements in Gush Katif and Netzarim.

"We don't want to have friction with the settlers," Kashef told Voice of Palestine radio.

Palestinian Legislative Council member and Fatah leader Abbas Zaki agreed. "There are no plans

for demonstrations at IDF roadblocks," he said. "This is a day for the masses, not for unrest. If the Israelis don't try to encourage violence, there won't be any."

Abbas and other PLC members plan to lead marches of their constituencies around the territories. PA sources said the marches will provide a rare opportunity for regional and national political figures to recruit grass-roots support.

In Gaza yesterday, an estimated 1,000 Palestinians from Fatah and Hamas demonstrated against Israel. Speakers called for a renewal of the intifada uprising as protesters burned Israeli flags and effigies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

PA officials repeatedly appealed yesterday for Palestinians to join the marches throughout the territories. They said all of the major Palestinian parties, social groups, unions, schools, and non-governmental agencies have agreed to participate.

At noon, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat is to address the marchers

in a live Voice of Palestine radio broadcast. Officials said the speech will be heard from loudspeakers in mosques throughout the territories.

"This is a call for the entire world to understand that the Palestinian people will remain on their land despite all the efforts to displace them," PA Information Minister Yasser Abbed Rabbo said. "It is a message that peace won't come with settlements and all other things that world opinion condemns."

Orderly marches were held yesterday in several areas in the West Bank, including Tulkarm and the Dheisheh refugee camp outside Bethlehem.

PA officials said roads through many Palestinian cities will be closed during the march, which begins at 10 a.m. This includes all of the major arteries through Ramallah and El Bireh that reach Manara Square.

An Israeli official said today's march represents a major test of the PA's ability to maintain order. "The message that we see is that

the PA wants tension," he said. "But if officials say this is not their intention then we can only judge by what happens on the ground."

PA officials hope the march will contribute to quiet efforts to reconcile with Hamas following the arrests of hundreds of Islamic activists in connection with the assassination of bombmaker Muhi Sharif. But PLC members yesterday expressed anger at the PA decision to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit Hamas prisoners, while refusing to allow a special legislative committee to do the same.

"It's shameful that the Red Cross was allowed and the committee was prohibited," said PLC member Abbas Zaki, representing Hebron.

Wajih Yaghi, a Hamas-aligned legislator from Gaza, added, "We want to know who killed Sharif."

Was it Israel? We want to know the truth." But several PLC members said they are ready to dis-

band the special committee, grant members access to the because of the PA's refusal to Hamas detainees.

## IDF bars Israelis from PA areas

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

The IDF has barred Israelis from entering the areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority to prevent friction as the Palestinians mark the 50th anniversary of what they call "the calamity," the creation of the State of Israel.

Over the past few days, senior IDF officials met with top Palestinian police commanders to coordinate how they would treat the demonstrations that may develop. Israel is concerned that the protests, which are expected to draw hundreds of thousands of demonstrators, may turn violent.

"We hope that the tensions there won't spill over into territory under our control," said one senior defense official.

IDF forces are being kept on alert to deal with any violence that may take place.

In a related matter, the annual memorial service for the 54 IDF personnel killed in a helicopter crash near Jericho 21 years ago is still scheduled to take place. Those interested in attending the 11 a.m. service are asked to take the Jericho bypass road to the village of Awuja and follow the signs.

## ARRIVALS

For the 1998 Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Tel Aviv University To Receive Honorary Degrees: Mr. Gerhard Ramda, Austria; Prof. Gerd Gigerenzer, Prof. Howard E. Ochsner, Prof. David Weiss Halivni, Mr. Melvin S. Dub, Mr. Shalom Yoran, U.S.A.; Mrs. Pauline Mirzani de Deutsch, Argentina; Mrs. Barbara and Gerd.

Argentina - Eda Asano, Pablo & Mrs. Baran & Andrea Baran, Raquel Berman, Hugh & Sylvia Bluff, Wolf & Fanny Blumenthal, Liliana Brill, Jorge & Polly Deutsch, Alan Deutsch, Miriam Deutsch, Michèle Druk, Nardo & Tzipi Feinman, Dr. Juan & Mary Fuka, Humberto & Elena Goldstein, Abraham & Muna Liberman, Mario & Sylvia Samuelsky, Gus & Mijal Secia, Pablo & Sylvia Slinko, Adolfo & Miriam Smolazar, Aldo Smolazar, Alfredo & Lora Smolazar.

Australia - Joseph & Gerta Benders, Haniak & Danka Cypriak, Mark & Rosa Feingold, Julian & Mimi Fogelman, Adam & Ida Friedman, Leon & Ada Kagan, Dr. (Hon.) Henry & Dinah Krongold, Mohi & Sylvia Krongold, Jack Clara Lazar, Stanley & Kay Loff, Frank & Shirley Lowy, Mr. & Mrs. Malvina Malinik, Adina Merematis, Abraham & Annette Monaster, Arnold Pomeroy, Alani & Ada Seligman, Efra Seligman, Mr. & Mrs. Shimon, Siegmund & Anna Siegmund, Hedy Switcz.

Austria - Maria & Dr. (Hon.) Hella Gertner, David & Scheuchner Rabinovich, Yelena & Sara Schwetznauer, Rudolph Seidling, Ruggi - Dr. Michael & Alina Perlman, Steffi Perlman, Semy & Paula Schmitt, Mr. & Mrs. Schmitt, Charles & Miriam Tewel, Dr. Lionel & Denise Zaida.

Canada - Marcel Adams, David & Stephanie Anzick, Prof. Lawrence Benzer, David & Erika Goldberg, Maria & Susan Goldberg, Gus & Rachel Levy, Hon. Herbert & Eva Mox, Yehuda & Anna Rapoport, Dr. Ira & Paula Schacter, Jeanne Thompson.

France - Jean Louis & Delphine Alcam, Jose Bardi, David & Beatrice Birme, Daniel Cousack, Michel & Lilly Cukierman, Adiel Cukierman, Daniel Cukierman, Davina Cukierman, Catherine Cukierman, Tamara Cukierman, Yael Cukierman, Nelly Elmalik, Lynn Goldstein, Charles & Elise Goux, Deborah Goux, Jacques & Regine Goux, Lea Goux, Rita Hammer, Irma Kana, Marlene Levy, Claire Mandel, Wolf & Helma Marout, Ego Karamanidis, Sylvia & Françoise Reingewirtz, Gerard Reingewirtz, Danielle Schoenoud, Loni Silberman.

Germany - Henry & Perla Faboz, Lela Rachel, Ad Schach & Gliese-Kunthmann-Schach, Hans Sieglitz.

Holland - John Fiedrich, John & Sonja Meubien, Dr. Ronald Seijden, Alfred & Lory Spitzer.

Italy - Beniamino Motta, Dr. Arturo & Caren Costantini, Jose & Mrs. Dancet, Sara Dancet, Leon & Robert Halbin, Leopoldo & Irit Kleitlich, Leopoldo Notten.

Malaysia - Aviva Felber.

Norway - Herman & Ester Kahon.

South Africa - Bernhard & Pearl Lazarus, Joan Lazarus, Phyllis Sachar, Shlomo & Sylvia Winkler.

Spain - Henri & Astrid Miral.

Sweden - Bertil & Chazilla Davis.

Switzerland - Yvonne Achter, Andie & Viviane Bollig, Norbert & Paulette Cymbalista, Brigitte Kirchberger, Zev & Anella Levin, Kurt Lion, Francis & Marie-Françoise Minkoff, Dago Schindler, Samuel Sijler.

United Kingdom - Maria Leigh, Alec & Myra Marmot, Paul & Sandy Norman, Jeanette Pomeroy, Sir Leslie & Dame Shirley Porter, Leslie & Alma Wolfson, Anthony & Karen Yagoroff.

United States - Alan & Noeli Aulman, Elliot & Ruth Bler, Bertram & Barbara Cohn, Marvin & Goldy Cominsky, Jill Drury, Steve & Mrs. Gidman, Seymour Feldman, Dr. Ben & Rose Gindler, Stephanie Guboff, Perry Hertz, Dr. David Hollander, Dora Kadish, Dr. Samuel Lefson, Jon Levine, Jules & Judy Love, Rosalee Lurie, Dr. Aron & Dr. Malke Moskowitz, Elizabeth & Pousan Nazarian, Jerry & Marc Oren, Prof. Mink Rabin, Dr. Moshe & Diana Rabin, Ralph & Betty Rabinowitz, Dr. Evelyn Royal, Norman & Heather Sackin, Elie & Dalia Sassouni, Mrs. Sassouni, Abraham & Mrs. Shapiro, Dr. Carroll Singer, Prof. Leo & Mickey Sroberg, Prof. Maurice & Lily Sroberg, Carol Teub, Robert & Phyllis Topoloff, Dr. Ben & Miriam Williamson, Paul & Anny Yonowicz.

Venezuela - Roberto & Eva Aron, Dr. Lisa Metcalf, Lora Moreno, Elizabeth Mundiat, Rebecca Perl, Haim & Miriam Pines, Miriam Pineskowitz, Simon & Mary Soren, Dr. (Hon.) Stanley & Eva Steyer, Clara Sznajderman.



## PM meets Albright

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright hold talks at a Washington hotel yesterday. No progress was reported after their 90-minute session, but the State Department said they would hold another round of talks today.

## INDIA

Continued from Page 1

The US measures, which also restrict arms exports, cut off non-humanitarian aid, and bar private US bank loans to the Indian government, except for food, can only be repealed by an act of Congress.

But Clinton, looking to muster international support for sanctions, found no takers among his European allies. Britain, the former colonial power in India, said it has no intention of following suit.

"The government's position is that it will not impose sanctions," Prime Minister Tony Blair's official spokesman told reporters. He said he expects the G8 leaders to express dismay and condemnation.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, asked at a joint news conference with Clinton whether Bonn would join sanctions, said only: "We will study this very carefully."

France, deeply embarrassed by global protests over its own nuclear tests two years ago, said it disapproves of New Delhi's step but opposes US sanctions and will not impose its own.

"The French government does not encourage the Americans to pursue sanctions, because this is surely not the right method for attempting to assure that India joins those nations wishing to sign the non-proliferation treaties," government spokesman Daniel Vaillant said.

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov told reporters in Moscow:

"I do not favor Russia introducing any kind of sanctions on any issues. We treat such measures very cautiously because sometimes they are counter-productive."

In Tokyo, the Japanese government announced a mainly symbolic suspension of grant aid to India, but left alone for the moment the bulk of its assistance in yen loans.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, visiting London before the G8 summit, withdrew his country's ambassador from New Delhi, banned arms exports, and said further measures would be announced following consultations with allies.

A British spokesman said the European Union would seek a joint stance when foreign ministers hold their next meeting on May 25, but he cautioned it would be unwise to expect them to enact trade sanctions.

The G8 is an informal grouping with no standing in international law.

## Bomb explodes at Moscow synagogue

MOSCOW (AP) - A bomb exploded at an Orthodox synagogue in Moscow last night, just minutes after congregants had left a Lag Ba'omer celebration.

Several construction workers at an adjoining building site were injured, said Rabbi Berek Lazar, but none of the congregants was hurt. "It was a miracle" more people weren't hurt, Lazar said. "People are outside bleeding."

The Interfax news agency reported two people injured.

The bomb had been placed in the facade of the Marinyia Roscha synagogue - the same place where a bomb exploded a year and a half ago, Lazar said. It shattered win-

dows and caused other damage to the building, he said.

Some 70 people had been attend-

ing Lag Ba'omer services and had gone to the third floor of the building about 10 minutes before the blast.

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**Gathering of the mayors**

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (front row, ninth from right) poses with 55 counterparts from around the world yesterday at the Dome of the Rock. The mayors, here this week for the 18th annual Jerusalem Conference of Mayors, received a personal guided tour of the city by Olmert.

(Bryan McBurney)

## Hanegbi presents human rights bills

Says laws would almost complete 'constitutional process'

By DAN IZENBERG

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi yesterday formally launched his campaign to legislate three more basic human rights laws, telling coalition faction heads that the legislation would almost complete the "constitutional process" which began 50 years ago.

However, the initial comments of the representatives of Shas, United Torah Judaism and the National Religious Party made it obvious that Hanegbi would be facing an uphill battle within the coalition.

"I have the feeling that by drafting a series of basic laws, the government is trying to sneak a constitution in through the back door. I am in favor of a constitution, but we already have one," Nissan Slomiansky (NRP) said, referring to Halacha.

The three bills prepared by the Justice Ministry deal with judicial rights, freedom of expression and organization, and social rights.

In his introductory remarks, Hanegbi said that none of the bills "had anything to do with the con-

roversial issues on matters of state and religion or the tensions between Halacha and secularism."

But his words did not reassure the Orthodox representatives. MK Avraham Ravitz (UTJ) said that he had voted for the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom and the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation in 1992 only to find afterwards that the High Court of Justice gave it a broad interpretation "which we didn't imagine in our wildest dreams."

Ravitz added that during the discussions leading to the passage of those two bills, he had wanted to give supremacy to the Jewish character of Israel in the preamble to the laws by describing it as a "Jewish state whose system of government is democratic." Had his formulation been accepted, he continued, perhaps decisions like Supreme Court Justice Dalia Dorner's ruling in favor of homosexuals in a recent landmark case would not have been passed.

"We will approach the new bills with extreme caution and examine every single word," he declared.

MK Hanan Porat (NRP) said the bills guaranteed individual rights, but made no mention of individual obligations. For example, Articles 3 and 4 confirm the individual's right to freedom of expression and freedom of creativity.

"If the creativity leads to the depreciation of others, it must be restricted," said Porat. "If the restrictions are not included in the law, it is unbalanced."

He added that the human rights laws made no mention of the rights of the collective. For example, the Law of Return should be made into a basic law, he said.

Hanegbi, who was distinctly conciliatory, said he would meet privately with each faction in order to hammer out a formulation acceptable to all. But he said he was determined that the bills would pass.

"We will disprove the claims that this government does not have a social agenda and is not concerned with the well-being of the individual," said Hanegbi. "We can prove that our approach in these areas is one of leadership based on harmony and agreement."

## HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

**Creative ideas**

"Why does an immediate 13% withdrawal endanger Israel's security while [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's 'creative idea' of an 11% withdrawal now and [vacating] another 2% later not risk state security?" asks Yosef Lapid, of *Ma'ariv*.

He believes the answer lies in the fact that there is no logic in Netanyahu's proposal and that it is only meant to dissolve the peace process.

Yosef Harif, also writing in *Ma'ariv*, is convinced that Netanyahu is sincere in his proposal and that the second redeployment will take place on condition that the Palestinians carry out their side of the agreement.

"Contrary to a few of his colleagues, Netanyahu is a realist...it is obvious to Netanyahu that without a compromise between the Israeli and the American stands, it is doubtful whether the political process will continue, with all of the consequences for this in [Israel's] relations with the US, Europe, Egypt and Jordan."

**Barak's bill**

Labor party leader Ehud Barak's submission of a bill calling for the draft of yeshiva students this

week, and the Ashkenazi Torah committee's rejection of the bill, has stirred controversy among Hebrew press commentators.

Referring to the Torah Committee's response, Arye Naor writes in *Ma'ariv* that it conveys the "alienation [of the haredim] from the Israeli existence, and also their rejection of Zionism and ideological reservations about the state."

Naor notes the threats raised by the haredim against Barak and predicts that "the deepening sense of revulsion throughout the public will also lead the prime minister and his party to support the drafting of yeshiva students."

*Ha'aretz* writes in an editorial that the new bill does not lead to total equality between the secular and religious sectors and therefore, is "not perfect. Still, it is better than the status quo."

It adds that Labor party should go one step further and demand the separation of religion from state.

"[The haredim] are starting to realize that as far as they are concerned, they can only win if they forge links with the left wing," writes Chemi Shalev in *Ma'ariv*. Within the right-wing there are many anti-haredim elements that together with the left can prevent any religious legislation, he adds.

"The unequivocal support of the haredim for [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu...released the left from any political inhibitions that it might have had and opened the way to an attack on the most sacred of status quos."

Amos Carmel, of *Yediot Ahronot*, claims that the use of 12th graders who accompanied Barak as he presented the bill, and the way he avoided details only shows that those who stand behind the proposal are image consultants and public relations figures.

He concludes that the proposal is not serious and can damage the struggle of those who are honestly concerned with the issue of equality.

**Deri's trial**

"Everything changes in our lives except one thing which is solid, sure and never ending: MK Arye Deri stands trial," writes Yosef Lapid in *Ma'ariv*.

The comment came after State Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein passed on a public indictment to the Knesset, accusing Deri of transferring money illegally to institutions associated with Shas. "The public's best interest as well as Deri's is that the trial come to an end as soon as possible," Lapid wrote.

## Weizman cancels performance at inauguration

By LIAT COLLINS

Just who's calling the tune in the Knesset? The answer appears to be the president. Or at least Arye Shumer, director of Beit Hanassi.

After a day of intense discussion on whether women could or should sing at the inauguration ceremony of President Ezer Weizman in the Knesset on Monday, Shumer called Acting Speaker Meir Sheetrit and informed him that there would be no artistic performance during the ceremony and that the song which was scheduled to be performed by a male soloist from an IDF Education Corps vocal ensemble would be dropped.

Instead the only singing will be the national anthem to be sung by all the MKs and guests.

The announcement followed a debate initiated by MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui), who claimed female soldiers who are part of an Education Corps vocal ensemble had been banned from appearing at the inauguration to avoid offending the sensibilities of reli-

gious MKs. The religious MKs, however, were not involved in the decision.

Poraz said the ensemble - three women soldiers and one male soldier - had been asked by to appear at the ceremony by Beit Hanassi when it was discovered that singer Yehoram Gaon, whom Weizman admires, would be abroad.

The entire Meretz faction, and several other MKs - including Poraz, Ze'ev Boim (Likud), and several women parliamentarians - threatened to walk out if the female singers did not perform, and haredi MKs said they would have to leave during the singing if it went ahead. Tsomet whip Eliezer Zandberg started a petition in favor of the full ensemble.

Although Knesset clerk Arye Hahn said he thought the incident had been brought to a close with Weizman's decision, Dalia Itzik (Labor) still called on her colleagues to boycott the event, saying the decision had been forced "out of medieval and dark superstitions." Dedi Zucker (Meretz) also described the decision as a surrender to religious coercion.

Before the decision was announced, Ran Cohen (Meretz) sent a letter to the nine women MKs suggesting they make their voices heard during the national anthem "and if the haredi MKs want to leave the plenum, let them leave instead of us."

Earlier in the day, Weizman told reporters, "I suggested just singing 'Hatikva,' which I think would be the most dignified thing, sung by one [male] member of an IDF troupe accompanied by a [female] pianist. The rest of the singing, by the whole ensemble without changes in its composition, should be afterward at the reception. I think this is dignified. I don't think songs other than the anthem should be sung in the plenum."

In the past, choirs have appeared in the plenum, but the mixed composition was considered less problematic as the women's voices were not dominant.

Pini Badash (Tsomet), called on all the MKs to stop fanning the dispute. "The honor of the president is above all. A state ceremony cannot be allowed to become a cause for ridicule," he said.

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## NEWS

in brief

## High Court extends deadline in conversion case

The High Court of Justice yesterday gave Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein until June 4 to reply to a petition as to why infants adopted abroad and converted at a Conservative ceremony at Kibbutz Hanaton in February 1995 should not be registered as Jews. The court also asked the attorney representing the parents, the Conservative movement and Na'amat to meet with Rabbi Haim Druckman, who heads a committee on conversion of adopted children, in an attempt to reach a solution out of court. *Haim Shapiro*

## Conservative Jews plan Shavuot minyan at Wall

Members of the Conservative movement are again planning to hold a Shavuot morning service at the Western Wall. Last year there was a confrontation at the Wall when the police moved the Conservative worshippers after telling them they could not protect them from the haredi protesters surrounding them.

Rabbi Ehud Bandel, president of the movement said yesterday that although no official prayer was planned, hundreds of members are planning to hold the service after an all night study session. Bandel said he already has told Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani that he expects the police to protect those at the service. *Haim Shapiro*

## Olmert fails to attend Mevasseret meeting

A meeting held last night at the Jerusalem International Convention Center to discuss the issue of annexing Mevasseret Zion to Jerusalem failed to produce any sparks when Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert failed to appear as planned.

"He doesn't dare face the people of Mevasseret," said spokeswoman Margalit Toledano.

The session, sponsored by the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, included a talk on how annexation would remove political power from the people in Mevasseret, and would produce an exodus from Jerusalem. *Eli Wohlgelemer*

## Mayor's wife plans to run for his job

Suzanne Amor, wife of long-standing Migdal Ha'emek mayor, Likud MK Shaul Amor, has announced that she will stand for the mayoralty in the municipal elections in November. The 51-year-old mother-of-three, said she would run in place of her husband, who is not seeking reelection because of the new law which prohibits Knesset members from also holding municipal positions. *David Rudge*

## Air Canada permitted to increase flights

Following long negotiations, the Civil Aviation Administration has granted Air Canada permission to initiate two additional flights a week. From the summer season, the airline is to have seven flights to Toronto and Montreal, instead of the present five. *Haim Shapiro*

## Students protest 'robbing of freedom'

Students of the Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem demonstrated yesterday against what they termed "the robbing of artistic freedom" by haredi groups. The students organized a pre-dawn campaign to hang signs throughout the capital reading "separate between the sacred and dance," a reference to haredi pressures that triggered cancellation of the Batsheva Dance Company's performance at the Jubilee Bells celebration. In Kikar Shabat, in Mea Shearim, a group of residents engaged in a shouting match with the students and some threw stones at their cars. *Itim*

## Moda'i in Rambam intensive care unit

Weizman visited former finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i and two soldiers who were wounded earlier this week in Lebanon yesterday at Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Moda'i became ill while attending a board of governors' session at the Technion and was admitted to the intensive care unit at Rambam Hospital on Tuesday. No other details on his condition were released. *Itim*

## Israeli woman found murdered in Cornwall

British police were investigating a nationwide hunt for a toddler after the boy's Israeli-born mother was found dead in her flat in Penzance, Cornwall, yesterday. Georgina McCarthy, 29, was discovered on the floor of the living room of her apartment. Local police said she had been the victim of a "brutal attack." Police are anxious to locate McCarthy's estranged partner, Paul Russell, 33. They believe Russell is in hiding with the couple's 18-month-old son, Adam.

A spokesperson from Devon and Cornwall police confirmed that McCarthy is an Israeli national and that her body will be flown back to Israel for burial. *Mark Rivlin*

## Vatican calls for 'Jerusalem law'

By LISA PALMIERI-BILLIG

ROME — The Vatican is again calling for "a special status with international guarantees" for Jerusalem.

Vatican Secretary for Relations between States Msgr. Jean-Louis Tauran, also known as the

Vatican's foreign minister, told the daily *La Repubblica* yesterday the Holy See hopes for "an end to conflict between Israelis and Palestinians... At the same time we ask the international community to assume its responsibility of conserving the holy and unique character of the Holy City."

"To achieve these goals, the Holy See continues to call for a special status with international guarantees."

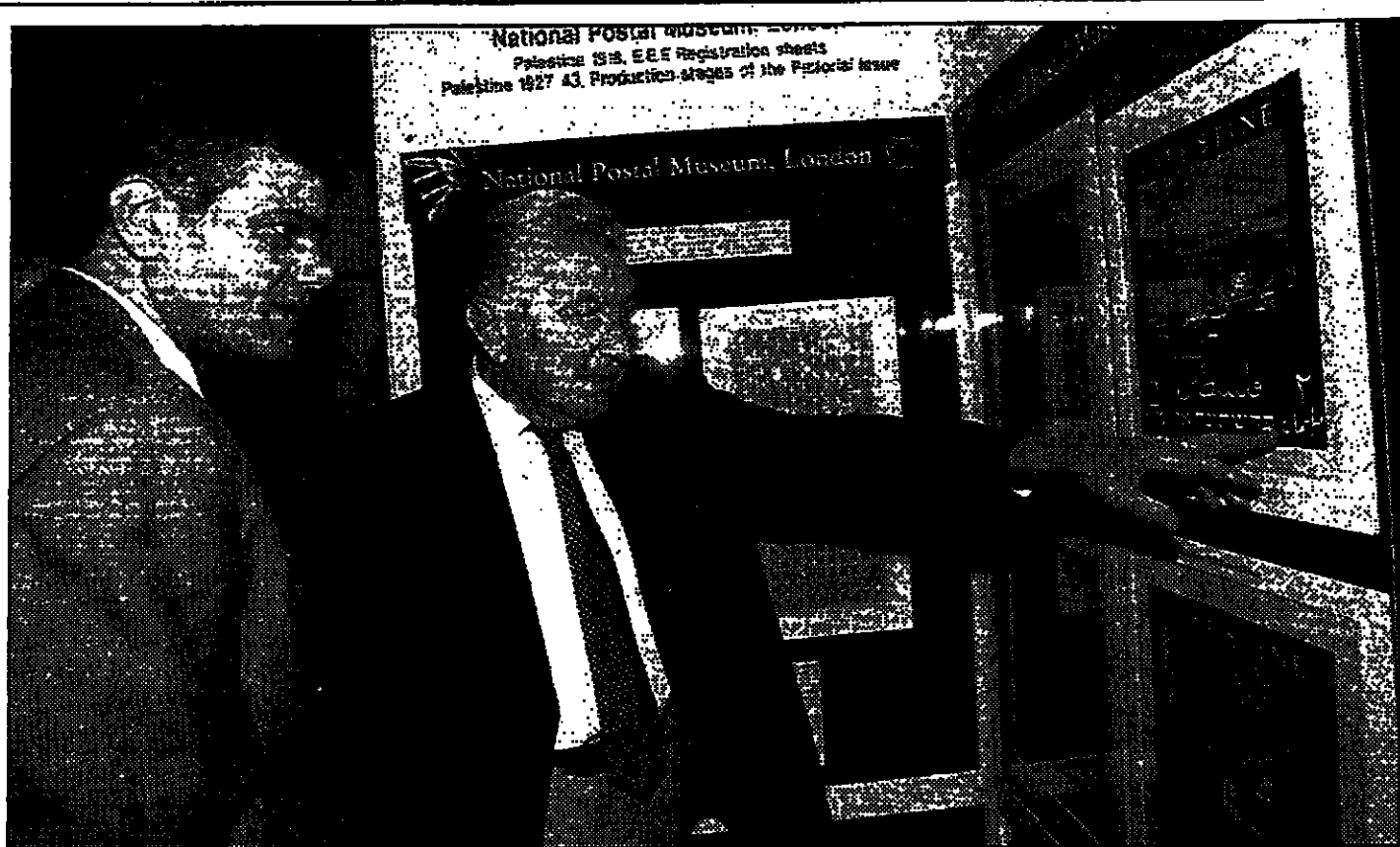
This request has for many years replaced the original 1948 demand for the "internationalization" of Jerusalem, but has not been raised for some time. Tauran also repeat-

ed last month's statement regarding the possibility of the pope's visiting Israel "and the Holy Land."

"To these privileged places of faith," he said, "the pope goes as a pilgrim. He cannot go if his visit is not synonymous with peace and encounter between peoples and

believers. Today this would not be so. Tomorrow? Let's hope."

He warned that "many peoples" in the Middle East are very frustrated with the peace process and such frustration could lead to "temptations of extremism" and "bear consequences going far beyond the region."



## Stamp exhibition

President Ezer Weizman (right) points out to Postal Authority Director-General Moshe Tery a display at the philatelic exhibit that opened yesterday at the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds. Stamps from 120 countries are on show, including the world's oldest stamp, from Britain. (Israel Stamp)

## European Jewish Congress drops official over Swiss bank controversy

By MARILYN HENRY

ZURICH — Only days before Swiss President Flavio Cotti was to arrive in Israel with a European Jewish Congress official in tow, the EJC has yanked the official's credentials for suggesting that the World Jewish Congress is black-mailing Swiss banks.

Michael Kohn, the former president of the Swiss Jewish community and an executive of the EJC, was snubbed after he said in an interview with a Geneva paper yesterday that the Swiss banks agreed to negotiate for Holocaust-era claims only under threats of sanctions. He also suggested that money now takes precedence over morality in Jewish dealings with

the Swiss.

In a statement from its headquarters in Paris, the EJC said it was "scandalous to pretend that the Swiss banks are subject to blackmail." Kohn, the EJC said, "has excluded himself from the organization, which will take sanctions to terminate his functions."

In Zurich, Israel Singer, the WJC's secretary-general, hinted — while refusing to name Kohn — that he had a conflict of interest, presumably because of his alleged financial ties to the banks. Kohn, now retired, was once prominent in Swiss industry and known as an "energy czar."

Kohn in fact represents a widely held view. However, it is one that

has been taboo since December 1996 when then-president and economics minister Jean-Pascal Delamuraz created an uproar when he said that "Jewish groups" calls for a "Holocaust compensation fund amounted to 'black-mail'."

Cotti, who also is foreign minister, is due to meet with Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat tomorrow, and to be in Jerusalem on Sunday. It is the first trip to the region by a Swiss minister in 13 years, and comes only three months after ties between Bern and Jerusalem were strained when Swiss police detained a Mossad agent during a botched wiretapping operation. Singer was to address the

Zurich Jewish community last night. It was his first address to Swiss Jews since the WJC began agitating for heirless, and unclaimed assets in Swiss banks in 1996.

Only two weeks ago, the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities criticized boycott threats against Switzerland and efforts by the WJC, with the intervention of the US government, to reach a lump-sum global settlement with Swiss banks for Holocaust-era claims.

The Swiss Jews said that such a solution would distract from a series of processes that are now under way to compel Switzerland to come to terms with its war-era history.

## US survivors face needs test for Holocaust fund

By MARILYN HENRY

ZURICH — Holocaust survivors in the US will be expected to face some kind of needs test to qualify for the Swiss humanitarian fund,

fund officials said in Zurich yesterday, overriding an objection from American survivors.

Benjamin Meed, the head of the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors and a member of the

fund's executive, earlier this year called the Swiss fund an "entitlement" and said he would not ask survivors to prove they are needy to qualify. Instead, Meed said, any survivor who seeks payment from the humanitarian fund is entitled to it.

That raised hackles in Switzerland, where the humanitarian fund was established in March 1997 specifically to benefit needy Nazi victims. Privately there were calls for Meed to step aside if he

could not abide by the fund rules, which had been established by the World Jewish Restitution Organization and Swiss officials.

American survivors are due to receive some \$33 million from the fund, while those in Israel and Eastern Europe will have \$59 million in each area from the fund. The fund began allocations to Jewish survivors last November and has distributed \$10 million, although the fund has some \$200

million available.

The American benefits are due to be allocated in about six months, a fund official said after a meeting Tuesday. Although the criteria have not been identified, fund head Rolf Bloch cited as examples those survivors who live on welfare benefits or who are ill.

No determination has yet been made on how to assess "need" among Israeli survivors, sources said.

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## Comptroller: Egged members earn more than hired drivers

By HAIM SHAPIRO

In a public relations campaign mounted by Egged, friendly bus drivers tell of their joy in transporting the public. But their joy in their earnings may depend on whether they are members of the cooperative or hired workers.

This was one of the elements revealed yesterday by the state comptroller's report on Egged, a report which assumes added significance because the government is openly working to create greater competition for the cooperative, which has a virtual monopoly on much of public transport.

The cooperative was the object of review by the comptroller because it receives a state subsidy in return for ensuring public transport in areas which are not profitable.

According to the report, the percentage of hired workers has continued to grow, from 48 percent at the end of 1993 to 53 percent at the end of 1996. In a sample survey, members of the cooperative made an average of 27 percent more than hired workers. Even in cases in which members and non-members had the same degree of seniority, the member's pay was considerably higher, the report said.

In its negotiations with Egged, the report said, the government must assess whether the salaries of the members are reasonable, since the cooperative has accumulated a significant deficit.

In Egged's public relations campaign, the drivers also stress that a bus ride is safe, but the comptroller revealed that the company routinely ignores regulations which

were introduced to ensure that drivers did not work to the point of exhaustion. According to the regulations, drivers are not to work more than nine hours without an hour's rest, they may not work more than 12 hours out of 24, or more than 68 hours a week.

However, the cooperative's own records show that among members, 70% had no hour of rest when they worked more than nine hours, that 62% of all work days lasted more than 12 hours, that 43% of the work days were between 16 and 20 hours, and that 10% of work days were 20 to 24 hours. All of the members work more than 68 hours a week.

Among hired drivers, 70% had no rest during a work day of over nine hours, 60% of the work days lasted more than 12 hours, and 34% of the work days were 16 to 20 hours long. Almost all the hired drivers work more than 68 hours a week.

In cases where drivers are involved in accidents, a cooperative tribunal determines his responsibility, in addition to a traffic court. However, the report found that the fines imposed by Egged's tribunal are usually so low that they do not constitute a deterrent.

In response, Egged spokesman Ron Ratner said that if the criticism in the report was the only flaw in the cooperative during the five years covered, then the report constituted a certificate of honor for Egged's management. Ratner noted that the report had indicated that most of the faults had been corrected and he said that the remainder are in the process of being remedied.

## MKs slam IBA coverage of 'Death to the Arabs'

Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom yesterday called on the Israel Broadcasting Authority... to examine whether its reporter edited a report on celebrations by Betar Jerusalem football fans to make it seem as if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had waved to calls of "Death to the Arabs." Shalom was answering several motions on the Saturday night incident.

He said that neither on Channel 33's live broadcast nor Channel 2's coverage could the death calls be heard. There is a theory, Shalom added, that the Israel Television reporter stood next to a small group which called the slogans into the microphone and later used this as the sound effect for the report.

Shalom and the MKs all condemned the death calls. MK Azmi Bishara (Hadash) said that even if Netanyahu did not hear the calls, he and the mayor should have denounced them as soon as they learned of them. Yesterday's murder of a Jerusalem Arab was a consequence of such incitement, he said.

### Daunting Deficit

The new director-general of the IBA, Uri Porat, yesterday met with the Knesset Education Committee and told it that the authority is suffering from a NIS 60 million deficit.

Porat, who held the same position several years ago, called the IBA's current situation "worrisome" and said he had found "anarchy instead of hierarchy." He also complained that Channel 1's broadcast time is taken up by "hitchhikers" such as Educational Television.

### Culture authority gets nod

The Knesset passed an array of bills in preliminary reading yesterday. Among them:

- a bill by Yona Yahav (Labor) under which a national authority for culture and the arts would be established;

- a bill by Haim Oron (Meretz) which would prevent Dudaim from becoming the major permanent landfill in the south;

- a bill by Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz) which would limit the authority of the Interior Minister to prevent the entry of tourists into the country without agreement from other relevant decision-makers such as the Defense Minister or Internal Security Minister;

- a bill by Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) which would ban the publication of the names and pictures of victims of an accident, disaster or terrorist attack without their consent or the consent of their families;

- a bill by Avi Yehzekel (Labor) which would require a public referendum among local residents before towns could be annexed, such as Mevasseret Zion;

### AT THE KNESSET

- a bill by MK Yael Dayan (Labor) which would reduce the "cooling off period" for senior public officials who want to enter political life. Currently, the required period is 100 days. Under the new electoral system, elections can be called and held in 60 days. Dayan suggested a 50-day period;

- a bill by Yona Yahav (Labor), Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism), Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) and Meir Sheerit (Likud) which would allow an IDF widow to keep her privileges even if she remarries;

- a bill by MK Ephraim Sneh (Labor) which would require that the basket of health services covered under the National Health Insurance Law be annually updated.

Two bills requiring compulsory primary elections in the major parties - raised by Labor MKs Ra'anana Cohen and Haim Ramon - failed by one vote. The proponents of the bills launched a scathing criticism of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom, answering on behalf of the government, said the bills were "anti-democratic."

### Fears of more work site tragedies

At a meeting of the Knesset Committee on Foreign Workers yesterday, an Israel Electric Company official said some 2,250 people work at the Ashkelon power plant, where laborers were killed Friday in an accident. Nine hundred and forty of the workers are foreigners employed by contractors.

When MK Tzvi Weinberg (Yisrael Ba'aliya) implied there could be more incidents of negligence at sites employing foreign workers, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai (Shas) replied: "If more foreign workers are injured it's apparently because more foreign workers are employed and that's a problem we are trying to deal with now."

He added that the Ashkelon site was visited once a week by a senior ministry safety expert. MK Ahmed Saad (Hadash) described the conditions of foreign workers in the country as "a slave market." A National Insurance Institute official said the widows of the foreign workers would receive compensation.

MK Yitzhak Cohen (Shas), who chaired the meeting, called the accident "a tragedy."

# Political appointments dominate staffs of municipalities - report

By DAN IZENBERG

Six cities have handed out 84 percent of their job appointments without tenders since the last municipal elections. State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat wrote yesterday.

Ben-Porat investigated Bat Yam, Tel Aviv, Givatayim, Holon, Ness Ziona and Kiryat Ono from November 1993, when the current crop of mayors was elected, until the end of 1995.

According to the report, the cities handed out a total of 689 jobs during the two years that were investigated. Only 112 of the appointments were made after a tender for the job had been published.

The Comptroller also found that the cities had made 36 political appointments, including 27 without a tender. "These appointees were active in the same political frameworks as the elected mayor or a senior mem-

ber of the executive," wrote Ben-Porat.

"Most of them participated in the municipal election campaign on behalf of the mayor or his faction, or the faction of some other member of the city executive." Almost all of the 21-page report is devoted to specific examples of violations of the strictures against political appointments or the laws calling for public tenders.

For example, the municipality of

Tel Aviv made six political appointments without a tender, including the position of director of the Authority for Tourism, Commerce and Industry.

The Comptroller wrote that in April 1994, the city published a tender for the post.

There were two candidates. An appointments committee, established to examine the candidates for this specific tender, chose one of them.

Ultimately, however, he was

given another job in one of the municipal corporations. In August, 1994, two months after the appointments committee had met, another man applied for the job. Six days later, the committee reconvened and chose him. There were no other candidates.

It turned out that the man was a member of the Likud Central Committee and a founder of a non-profit organization which campaigned for Mayor Roni Milo.

## Eurovision comes to the Knesset

By LIAT COLLINS

A message of "Viva La Diva" went out from the Knesset yesterday when Eurovision Song Contest winner Dana International was honored at a special gathering of the Education Committee. The House, no stranger to the famous, became the scene of general excitement as MKs, parliamentary aides, and Knesset workers struggled to get a look at the country's most famous transsexual and first Israeli Eurovision winner in two decades.

Despite the fact that millions of television viewers in Europe know what the singer looks like, International faced a short delay in gaining entry to the Knesset, as she was not carrying an identity card.

When she finally entered the corridor leading to the committee room, International was greeted by a round of applause and more media attention than most MKs dream of. Knesset guards found it hard to hold back journalists and photographers, including foreign press, and groupies.

Committee chairman Emanuel Zissmann (The Third Way) thanked International for "raising national morale" and presented her, composer Zvika Pik, and songwriter Yoav Ginai with books on the Knesset.

"We see this achievement as a result not just of the song, but of your charm and charisma," Zissmann said.

Admitting to being "flattered by the attention," International replied: "This is not just a victory for me as a person, but a victory for the country, and for the image of the country, which I don't have to tell you is not the most popular in the world."

The committee members were united in their insistence that the Eurovision should take place in Jerusalem.

Since the Knesset House Rules do not allow for committee meetings to be held while the plenum is sitting, the committee met as an informal gathering.

While many MKs fought to get closer to the singer - and MK David Bolin (Likud) was so moved he composed a poem in her honor - some members of the National Religious Party and the haredi parties noticeably avoided the media event. However, International's appearance in the Knesset did raise certain questions for some of them: MK Nissan Slomiansky (NRP), for example, wondered whether International could join a minyan for prayers.



Eurovision winner Dana International gets a hug from Labor MK Yael Dayan at the Knesset yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

## Conservative Rabbi claims Interior Ministry is snubbing American black converts

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The Interior Ministry has refused to grant automatic citizenship to members of a black family from the US who were converted by a Conservative rabbinical court, according to Rabbi Andy Sacks, an official of the Conservative movement in Jerusalem.

The family members, who arrived on Tuesday, include a man who had already come as an oleh and acquired Israeli citizenship, along with his wife, two children and four grandchildren.

After detaining the family, officials at Ben-Gurion Airport allowed them into the country on condition

that everyone other than the father sign an undertaking to leave the country within 30 days and then arrange their re-entry from the US.

However, Sacks said yesterday that the family had been in contact with aliyah authorities for over a year and was unsuccessful in attaining official aliyah status.

Interior Ministry spokeswoman Tova Elinson said in response last night: "It is the right of the state of Israel to investigate anyone who wants to become a citizen," she said.

If the family was unable to make aliyah from abroad through the Jewish Agency, the JA must have had reasons for its position, she said. Their status in Israel is that of

tourists. JA officials could not be reached for comment last night.

Sacks said that despite assurances from the government that Conservative and Reform converts from abroad are accepted in Israel, there have been other cases in which the authorities have refused to recognize the rights of non-Orthodox converts. This was especially true when non-white converts were involved, he said.

Rabbis from the Conservative movement are due to meet with the family today in an effort to clarify their situation.

## Trans-Israel highway start-date uncertain

By DAVID HARRIS

Construction of the Trans-Israel Highway (route 6) will begin in the fall, rather than during the summer, Cross-Israel Highway spokesman Ariel Shabtai said yesterday.

The delay is being put down to two factors: a delay in closing the finances for the project and organizational delays on the ground.

"It'll now begin in October, maybe a little later or a little sooner," Shabtai said.

This suggestion was denied only yesterday by the tender-winning Derech Eretz consortium.

"There is absolutely no delay whatsoever, we will begin work on schedule in September," said consortium general manager Ehud Savion.

The financial arrangements are in the final stages before closing and will be completed mid-August, he added.

The consortium is promising to employ 2,000 people directly, with a further 10,000 being hired by contractors and in linked work.

Total private sector investment in the project will amount to more than \$1 billion, according to consortium president John Beck.

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GRADUATE OF THE CANADIAN HADASSAH WIZO NAHALAL YOUTH VILLAGE

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**Israel Airports Authority**

**Public Tender No. C4010049**

**Energy Center Building Contract**

The Israel Airports Authority (IAA) hereby requests Proposals from qualified Offerors meeting the below listed Pre-Conditions for the Construction of the Energy Center Building Construction for the Ben Gurion 2000 Project. The Work of this Contract generally includes performing and managing all structural, architectural, plumbing work, building enclosure and roofing, site development and the coordination of and with other contractors on Site.

**Preliminary Mandatory Requirements:** This list summarizes the Pre-Conditions for an Offeror's Proposal to be considered by the IAA. Only the complete language of the Pre-Conditions as stated in the RFP is binding. This text may be obtained by written request, submitted on company letterhead, to the PMF facsimile number stated below.

- Offeror's minimum annual revenue in each of the last three (3) years was no less than the equivalent of Eighteen Million U.S. Dollars (\$18 million).
- Offeror's records must indicate, for each of the last three (3) years, the cost paid directly for labor for at least two hundred (200) persons (annual average).
- Offeror has constructed and completed a minimum of either:
  - Two (2) projects of 20,000 square meters in size, each within the last five (5) years; or
  - At least one (1) 20,000 square meter project and at least two (2) electro-mechanical system projects, each of not less than 4,500 square meters in area, or the equivalent of six million US dollars (\$6 million), all within the last five (5) years.
 All projects and/or systems exclude residential, warehouse and parking facilities.
- If an Israeli entity, Offeror shall be registered in the State of Israel Contractors Register under Group C, Branch 100, Type 5 (Unlimited).
- Offeror shall meet the staffing and personnel experience requirements in the RFP, Exhibit A.
- Offeror shall meet the registration requirements for a legal entity stated in the RFP, Exhibit A.
- Offeror shall meet the VAT and Israel Tax Authorities' registration requirements stated in the RFP, Exhibit A.
- Offeror shall provide an unconditional Bank Guarantee in the amount of Two (2) million New Israeli Shekels (NIS), valid for a minimum of ninety (90) days from the Proposal Submission Date, as specified in the RFP, Exhibit E.
- Joint Ventures are allowed to participate in the Tender in accordance with the conditions stated in the RFP, Part B, Section 2 and Exhibit A.
- Offeror, if a foreign entity, shall additionally provide a Commercial Cooperation Undertaking Agreement.

**Additional Preliminary Requirements:**

Participation in the Tender Process is subject to the Offeror's satisfying all Preliminary Requirements as detailed in the Mandatory Tender Regulations (1993), Clause 6 (a), (1), (2) and (3).

**Proposal Documents:** Tender Documents may be purchased until the Proposal Submission Date for the non-refundable amount of Thirteen Thousand New Israeli Shekels (13,000 NIS), including VAT.

Tender Documents are available from the Project Management Firm (PMF) Project Office located at Ben Gurion International Airport, starting May 14, 1998 between the hours of 9:00 and 12:00, business days (Sunday through Thursday). Interested Offerors must contact the PMF Contracts Administrator, Mr. Zvi Peretz Cohen at 972-3-977-4456 (fax: 972-3-971-2555) a minimum of forty eight (48) hours in advance to arrange Site access. Interested parties may preview the Tender Documents prior to their purchase.

All qualifying Proposals shall be delivered in sealed envelopes/packages not later than 10:00 hours local time on or before June 16, 1998 to the appropriate tender box located in the Archive of the Airports Authority, Main Office, 2nd Floor, Room No. 113, Ben Gurion International Airport, Israel.

A Pre-Proposal conference will be held at the Ben Gurion 2000 Project Site Offices on May 27, 1998 at 12:00 to clarify provisions in the RFP documents, to summarize and present the Project and to respond to written questions posed by Offerors. Offerors are strongly encouraged to attend, but participation is not mandatory. Site access must be arranged in advance as stated in the RFP.

The IAA is not bound to accept the lowest Proposal or any Proposal whatsoever.



# Guess who's into family planning?

## Iran has become an unlikely model for population control

By ROBIN WRIGHT

TEHRAN, Iran — Jalal Shahpasand, a tall, husky restaurateur, waited until after dinner and the chaperons had gone off to watch television.

After courting "the lovely Jila" for a year, he was ready. So he took her hand and softly asked, "Will you marry me?"

Jila nodded.

Javad Goudarzi, a handsome plastics worker with a thick mustache, chose the traditional route to marriage: family arrangement.

When he met 19-year-old Theahereh the first time, he decided that she was the girl for him. A week later, the proposal was relayed from his parents to her aunt and then to Theahereh. Back through the same route, she accepted.

And so the two couples ended up in a whitewashed health-clinic classroom last week, waiting for something even more important in Iran than a marriage license — a slip certifying that they had passed the nation's family planning course.

No one gets married without it. The course is just one aspect of an ambitious campaign to stop what had become one of the world's biggest population surges — one that had almost doubled the number of Iranians since the 1979 Islamic Revolution from 34 million to 63 million today.

The numbers shot up after the new religious government in the late '70s urged Iranian women to breed an Islamic generation. Aided by a lowering of the marriage age to 9, they more than complied.

By the early 1980s, the population growth rate had reached 3.2 percent, according to Iran's Health Ministry. International agencies pegged the rate at up to 3.9%, among the world's highest.

Either way, the government — aware of the costs of such a large population — is spending millions of dollars a generation later to reverse the trend.

It seems to be working.

When the instructor asked how many children each couple plans to have, Jalal and Jila, who together have seven siblings, said, "One."

Javad and Theahereh, who have 13 siblings, said, "Two."

Nationwide, the population growth rate is now down to 1.41%, Iran says. And the fertility rate has dropped to such a staggering number that wary demographic experts are helping to expand the data base and sampling techniques.

Nonetheless, Iran's campaign has won worldwide praise.

Population groups cite it as a model for developing nations and the Islamic bloc.

And Washington-based Population Action International bestowed its highest commendation on Iran's program.

Its strength may be its imaginative initiatives.

Abbas Farsi, a diminutive truck driver with the first strands of silver in his hair, showed up early at the No-Scalpel Vasectomy clinic in south Tehran last week for the 10-minute procedure — and the 30-minute video showing a vasectomy and answering the most-asked questions, plus personal counseling.

"We have two children, and we want to give them a good education, so it was time to make sure we didn't have any more," he said.

Farsi's procedure was one of about 3,500 each year at the facility, which in turn is one of dozens of permanent and mobile clinics in Iran. All are free.

From Norplant to condoms, IUDs to the pill and including both male and female sterilization, birth-control products are free to all takers in another aspect of Iran's program.

In the process, sex has come off the list of taboo subjects in the Islamic Republic.

In health rooms set up in all factories, in schoolrooms, in mosques during Population Week in July, in widespread media coverage and in a blanket advertising campaign that includes billboards and water towers, family planning is discussed widely.

The ruling clerics have even issued "fatwas," or religious edicts, approving it.

The family planning program, often referred to as Tehran's "other revolution," coincided with the end of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War and with broader societal openings as the revolution began to settle down.

It also represented a new streak of pragmatism among the country's Shiite Moslem clergy.

Aware that even with its oil wealth Iran would soon not be able to feed, clothe, house, educate and employ the burgeoning numbers, religious leaders, health experts, government officials and academics held a summit to figure out what to do.

Simply providing birth control was not enough, they agreed.

By 1990, the Fertility Regulation Council was established. By 1993, new laws withdrew food coupons and subsidized health insurance after the third child. And then came the



Iranian youngsters last week play in Chitgar Park, Tehran, under a huge painting persuading women to keep the veil and observe Islamic behavior. Marriage candidates must pass a family planning course. (AP)

array of programs which, unlike India's sometimes coercive tactics, are user-friendly, outside experts say.

The two-hour prenuptial class was one of the first steps in 1994.

"At first we used the trick of requiring couples to take the course," said Safieh Shahriari, a female gynecologist and senior family planning expert in the Health Ministry. "But after a year or two, we found most couples wanted to take the course. It's a place to ask questions at exactly the time they need answers."

In the clinic classroom, instructor Abol Faz Mohajeri offered "no-nonsense guidance."

"What's the goal of getting married?" he asked the betrothed couples.

The answers varied from having an independent life and completing the human experience to fulfilling the prophet Mohammed's message.

"Yes," said Mohajeri, adding what the others won't say: "But it's also about having regular sex."

He then explained the various environmental consequences of overpopulation and did an explicit show-and-tell of birth-control devices.

"And what do you want from God?" he continued. Jila responded that she wants healthy children. "Yes, that's right. It's not important whether it's a boy or girl," he offered.

Iran's program has emphasized gender equality to prevent the problem of male preference found elsewhere in Asia.

Despite Iran's marriage age, which family planning experts here want to return to 15, the program also stresses that pregnancy before age 20 is not recommended. An accompanying pamphlet shows caricatures of a young teenager and an old woman at full term.

To reach workers, who have the lowest participation in family planning, the Islamic Republic has set up education workshops in factory health rooms, which are also distribution centers for free contraceptives.

Nationwide, Iran holds its annual Population Week, which coincides with the UN-designated Population Day on July 11. All segments of society are engaged.

"We ask religious leaders to tell people when they are praying about the effectiveness of population control in dealing with social and economic development," Shahriari said. "Other Islamic countries are often surprised at how the religious leaders support us."

During the week, elementary through high schools focus on population issues in environmental classes developed jointly by the Health and Education ministries. To encourage media coverage,

Iran's program offers free trips for the largely Tehran-based media to Isfahan and Shiraz, the historic centers of famed Iranian poetry, art and architecture, to cover family planning activities.

Year-round, Iran also recruits female volunteers who act as neighborhood advisers about family health and planning techniques.

"If neighbors are just starting a new life, a volunteer tells them about nutrition, cancer screening and care. For a family with four children, she might tell them about vasectomy and the benefits of population control," Shahriari added.

To reach remote mountain villages and rural tribal areas, Iran has 80 mobile teams, which have evolved from health workers who consulted on contraceptives to medical units — surgeons, anesthesiologists, lab technicians and nurses — that now travel by four-wheel-drive

vehicles, or helicopters, to perform vasectomies or tubal ligation.

As a Moslem country, Iran has had some unusual problems to deal with along the way.

"Norplant, for example, can cause some bleeding, and Moslem women can't pray when they're bleeding. So people don't like it," Shahriari noted.

And the system still has serious glitches.

Despite pervasive family planning options, about 33% of pregnancies are still unwanted, for one or both partners, a recent government survey shows. And among unwanted pregnancies, 35% of the women take oral contraceptives, indicating that they are misused or not understood.

But even success does not eliminate the dangers. Even if the government meets its objectives, Iran's population is still projected to reach 90 million in less than 25 years. (LA Times)

## Flashing the paparazzi out of the picture

By MARK EGAN

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Paparazzi beware, your days may be numbered. Joe Resnick hopes to beat you at your own game with an invention that will make celebrities' faces disappear like magic from unwanted photographs.

Resnick was just one of many hopeful inventors seeking investors and manufacturers for their amazing, and sometimes eccentric, products at the recent Invention Convention at the converted cruise ship *Queen Mary* in Long Beach.

Sitting at his booth, Resnick is wearing a Chicago Bulls cap. But this is no ordinary cap. The "O" in Chicago does not look quite right. Closer inspection reveals a small

electronic device sticking through the letter — the Paparazzi Stopper.

"This is designed to thwart the efforts of a would-be photographer," Resnick said. "If you approach me and try to take my picture with a flash camera with-

out my permission, this will stop you from taking my picture."

Concealed in the cap is a light sensor that detects the approaching light from a camera flash and sends a flash back at the camera, ruining the negative. When the

picture is developed, the celebrity appears to have a huge light bulb for a head.

Resnick said he was inspired to invent his device by actor George Clooney's impassioned plea to photographers to respect celebri-

ties' privacy after the death of Princess Diana.

"My wife and I were watching an interview with George Clooney," Resnick said. "He was saying, 'I don't want to be a celebrity.'"

See PAPARAZZI, Page 7

### AGENDA

Continued from Page 1

The signals coming from Jerusalem did not bear good tidings for the administration. AIPAC's annual convention is American Jewry's principal show of strength. White House officials realized that the pact between a Netanyahu under pressure and the strong Jewish lobby, which is constantly searching for a new challenge, might well put relations between the two countries on a collision course.

When Clinton instructed Albright to remain in Washington and meet with Netanyahu, the State Department formulated an emergency plan aimed at preempting the Israeli propaganda attack. On Monday evening, Albright requested that a meeting be hastily organized with Jewish leaders, headed by Howard Koor of AIPAC.

They were summoned to a Tuesday morning meeting with her at which she described in great detail how the US had already gone the "extra mile" toward Netanyahu, and how she had been disappointed time and time again by his stance and method of operation.

"We are not looking for confrontation, but we, too, have fundamental regional interests which cannot be brushed aside," she said. "The American interest is a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace, based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the principle of 'land for peace.'"

"We are not laying down an ultimatum, nor are we threatening to harm Israel's security or relative advantage. All in all, we sounded the bell and asked the sides to wake up and get the process

rolling."

She spoke in a similar vein at the press conference. She devoted four hours to the congressmen on Capitol Hill and the discussion, in which peace team coordinator Dennis Ross also participated, was frank and held in a relaxed atmosphere.

Albright's tone was conciliatory, almost apologetic: "We have done everything possible to satisfy Netanyahu, made every effort to cope with his anxieties. We have tried to reduce the risks in every way, but... there are two partners to these negotiations. We cannot afford to lose the confidence of one side."

#### Lunching and learning

A couple of days ago I had lunch at a restaurant close to Capitol Hill which serves as a rendezvous for senior congressmen, administration officials, and the various American lobbies. I sat with a key Jewish activist who is an expert in the secrets of Washington's corridors of power.

"Here you can see a cross-section of congressional leaders," he said. "The Middle East peace process is of no interest to them whatsoever. America is in the midst of an economic boom of unprecedented proportions. The main topic of conversation is Clinton's chances of survival and Al Gore's chances of taking over from him, not who is going to impose a solution on Israel."

The main issue this week is India's nuclear tests. That is definitely a threat to world peace. They can't take the drama surrounding the precise scale of the redeployment seriously, when everything in Asia is in a state of collapse."

"Instead of holding a press conference on the nuclear risk, every-

one here is busy with Bibi. No one will buy it anymore. If congressmen are interested in what's happening in Jerusalem, it has nothing to do with the redeployment, only with political gossip."

"The conflict between Ariel Sharon and Benjamin Netanyahu is interesting. That's what they want to know about. The Jews are



Bill Clinton (AP)

once again trapped between the devil and the deep blue sea, between their loyalty to the American national anthem and their desire to sing 'Hatikva' at the same time."

Next week's AIPAC convention will take place under the slogan: "Pressure on Israel, not the lack of a Palestinian state, is the true obstacle to peace."

Before I left for Washington — and before it was clear that Netanyahu would not attend the planned summit with Arafat — I had lunch at an inexpensive Jerusalem restaurant which for some reason is popular among politicians, diplomats, senior government officials, journalists, and ordinary Israelis.

Moshe, the proprietor, is a staunch Likud supporter and one of Netanyahu's keenest fans.

"He'll turn out to be the strongest prime minister ever. Even greater than [Menachem] Begin," he said.

His enthusiasm is based mainly on the determination displayed by the prime minister on his return from London. If he had returned after succumbing to American pressure, Moshe would probably have been less vocal in support and less convinced of his success. Moshe likes heroes and anyone who stands up to American pressure is, in his view, a hero.

"Will he attend Monday's summit meeting with Clinton?" we asked.

"Don't be silly. He'd be mad to go. He has the support of everyone. They wouldn't dare force his hand."

You might not get brilliant political analysis from Moshe, but it's definitely the place to get the feel of things.

Trust and a lack of confidence The discussions on the scale of the redeployment got off on the wrong foot. The Israelis mentioned a low two-digit figure, meaning 10 percent. The Americans were referring to a low-teen number. But the teens begin with 13, not with 11 or 12.

Slowly but surely this misunderstanding developed into a crisis of confidence. The Americans claim that Netanyahu did not specify these figures in his talks with Albright, Ross, Martin Indyk, or Ambassador Ned Walker.

Netanyahu stood his ground with them. Later, they heard from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan that Netanyahu was willing to compromise at 11%. They claim that this is also what he said

to British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

They feel deceived, as the process has been dragged out from one meeting to the next. Ever since the Hebron Agreement was signed 18 months ago, Netanyahu has rejected every effort to make progress, such as Al Gore's proposal to settle the issue of the third



Ariel Sharon

redeployment in the event that the negotiations on the permanent settlement reach deadlock.

The Americans seem unaware that Netanyahu, too, has had cause to lose faith in the Americans due to their open support of Shimon Peres before the elections, and because of the support they have shown for the Palestinians, despite their refusal to fulfill their part of the agreement.

Against the background of Hillary Clinton's recent comments on the subject of establishing a Palestinian state, without having fully exhausted the peace process, Washington still has difficulty understanding the emotional difficulty facing any Israeli leader in transferring territory which is part

of the Land of Israel to Palestinian sovereignty, particularly one with Netanyahu's ideological background. It also has difficulty in coming to terms with his coalition predicament.

A miffed Sharon Some time ago officials in Washington formed the opinion that Ariel Sharon would be willing to compromise in return for American legitimacy. A senior administration official told me this week that Sharon after the Lebanon War reminded him of Moshe Dayan after the Yom Kippur War. The Americans believed that in return for the Foreign Ministry, for example, Sharon would be prepared to turn a blind eye to the size of the redeployment.

Last week, Sharon left for a visit to the US and during the week pushed Netanyahu not to give in to the harsh American pressure. On Monday morning, he received several phone calls from Israel about leaks from the Prime Minister's Office to the effect that his support for concessions was

conditional on being appointed foreign minister. He was furious. The last time Netanyahu had spoken to him about the Foreign Affairs portfolio was before the Knesset elections.

Now, in his absence, his name was being mentioned again, this time in an effort to damage his reputation.

On Tuesday, after the fuss had died down, Netanyahu invited him to accompany him to a meeting with Albright. Sharon felt cheated once again. For weeks, the size of the redeployment has not merited serious discussion, and now he was being asked to get to the Israeli Embassy in Washington at 11 for consultations?

However, the time allocated for the talks was too short to allow the considerations to be discussed properly and, still make it to the State Department in time.

Arik believes that he is too large a fish to cover up the embarrassment of American pressure and he therefore decided to remain in New York.

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Your window on ISRAEL

155 من الامارات



# Suharto rushes home from abroad as riots expand

By RAJU GOPALAKRISHNAN

JAKARTA, May 13 (Reuters) — Indonesian President Suharto decided to cut short a state visit to Egypt and issued an appeal for restraint yesterday as Jakarta was rocked by protests, riots, looting, and gunfire.

One person died as mourning for six students shot and killed in clashes with security forces on Tuesday turned into yet another protest against Suharto's rule.

Cars and shops were set on fire by rampaging mobs through the day, some driven by spiralling prices in Indonesia's worst economic crisis in decades, as police and troops fired repeatedly into the air and into the crowds.

A Reuters television camera saw the body of a young man near Jakarta's Trisakti University, where the six were killed on Tuesday and around which most of the day's violence took place.

It was impossible to determine how he died as rubber bullets and tear gas filled the air, but there was

evidence that real bullets were being fired. The university clinic treated a youth, who was not a student, who had been shot in the shoulder.

Inside the university, students blocked stairways with desks and blackboards and late in the afternoon, special forces troops abseiled into position around the campus from helicopters.

The trouble there died down at dusk, but mobs rampaged through several areas in some of the worst street violence in Jakarta since July 1996.

Vice President Jusuf Habibie said the government is deeply concerned by the deaths of the six students.

He quoted Suharto as urging "the whole nation, especially the younger generation and students and all parties, to show restraint in order to maintain the order and stability needed to implement the reforms we want and to get out of the crisis we face."

Egyptian officials said Suharto had decided to leave Cairo today, a

day earlier than planned.

In Jakarta, the mobs looted and burned mainly Chinese-owned shops. Acrid smoke filled the air and flames lit up the surroundings as several shops in a two-story commercial row burned in the Pangeran Tubagus Angke area.

The ethnic Chinese minority is a frequent target of attack during hard times in Indonesia for its apparent wealth and control of local trade and commerce.

Disturbances also rocked North Jakarta and a central business district where police fired warning shots and tear gas to disperse thousands of people protesting against the deaths of the six students and higher fuel prices announced last week.

Witnesses said there were only a handful of police making intermittent appearances in the West Jakarta riots. Looting resumed as soon as the police had passed.

At least 20 burned out vehicles littered the road and the main highway to the airport, which passes by Trisakti University, was

blocked by two burned-out petrol tankers.

One target was a showroom containing cars made by a company owned by one of Suharto's sons. Rioters dragged the cars out, overturned them and tried to set them on fire.

There was also trouble in the central Java city of Yogyakarta, where tear gas, rubber bullets, and water cannon were used to quell protests, and the west Java city of Bogor.

By contrast, the armed forces allowed 30,000 students and ordinary people to protest on the streets of Surabaya in east Java and there was no trouble, witnesses said.

The day began with opposition figures Amien Rais and Megawati Sukarnoputri telling the Trisakti University crowd to keep up their struggle, but peacefully.

They urged political reform and provided the students with what analysts said could be a focus for their protests which had been lacking.

"The actions of the security forces in shooting their own people cannot be condoned," said Megawati, the daughter of Indonesia's late founding president Sukarno.

Rais, vocal government critic and head of a Moslem movement claiming 28 million members, told the crowd the army must decide between defending Suharto and defending the people.

"The president must change his attitude, or the people will force him to change," he said.

"Down with Suharto," the students, many wearing black armbands or headbands, chanted in reply.

The violence sent Indonesian financial markets reeling, scared traders, and helped pull down regional markets.

"Nobody cares about business this afternoon. The riots are quite serious. This is scary," said one Jakarta trader.

Financial centers across Asia were shaken too. "Indonesia is dragging us down," said a dealer

in Singapore.

The tattered rupiah plunged more than 15 percent through 10,000 to the dollar for the first time since March. Shares dived more than 8 percent before regaining a little lost ground.

Among the worst hit stocks were those of companies linked to members of Suharto's family, which the student protesters accuse him of enriching.

Traders said the companies would be operating in an unfriendly environment if Suharto quit, although he has shown no signs of bowing to the building pressure.

The student protests began in February, sparked by the worst economic crisis in decades which has resulted in widespread unemployment, spiralling inflation, and required the International Monetary Fund to organize \$43 billion in loans.

They quickly turned into demands that Suharto quit and for immediate political reforms. Suharto, 76, has said reforms can be debated, but most could not be

implemented until the end of his seventh five-year term in 2003.

His comments have not cooled the student mood. In Yogyakarta, thousands of students demanding Suharto quit yesterday clashed with security forces using rubber bullets, tear gas, and water cannon.

Several students were hit, but none appeared seriously injured. Students said security forces then entered their campus and announced over loudspeakers anyone trying to leave would be arrested.

Hundreds of students marched to Jakarta's Moslem Tamen Kusir cemetery for the funerals of two of the dead students.

Hery Hartanto, a 21-year-old engineering student, and Elang Mulya Lesmana, a 20-year-old architectural student, were buried side by side in plain wooden coffins draped with green cloth and red-and-white Indonesian flags.

"The spirit of your struggle, young heroes, we will carry on," proclaimed a banner strung across a hillside overlooking the graves

## Ukraine probing looted gold

By ANNA DOLGOV

KIEV (AP) — The Ukrainian government has begun investigating how much gold the Nazis looted from victims in the former Soviet republic, an official said yesterday.

A governmental commission hopes to submit a report to the international conference on Nazi gold that is scheduled for Washington in November, said Igor Mushnikov, head of the government's Understanding and Reconciliation Fund, which is directing the investigation.

If any of the gold looted from Ukrainian residents is eventually recovered, the government intends to return it to the individual victims or their descendants, not to Ukraine's central bank, Mushnikov said.

An international Allied commission responsible for distributing looted Nazi gold has already recovered more than 300 tons. Between 50 and 60 tons of the gold belonged to individual vic-

tims. So far, all the gold has been returned to national banks — and none has gone to individuals.

Ukraine's investigation began after a December conference in London, which brought together for the first time all 41 nations with an interest in Nazi gold — the World War II allies, Germany, Israel, Nazi-occupied Switzerland, and representatives of Jewish and Gypsy victims of the Holocaust.

"We have looked through Ukrainian archives, German archives, Russian archives," Mushnikov said. "But it's too early to name any figures yet."

Earlier this month, the Ukrainian government decided to put the research on a more solid footing, and formed a special commission, Mushnikov said.

A report last year by the World Jewish Congress said the Nazis stole at least \$850 million in gold worth \$8.5 billion at today's value — from countries and individuals between 1933 and 1945.

## Jewish graves vandalized in Irkutsk

MOSCOW (AP) — Vandals damaged or destroyed 149 headstones at a Jewish cemetery in Siberia, the third time in recent months that the same graveyard has been targeted, a report said yesterday.

The vandals used building equipment to wreak havoc on the cemetery, and it appeared that 10

or more people were involved, according to Jewish community leaders in Irkutsk.

Gravestones were spray-painted last December, the ITAR-Tass news agency said, and in March, the home of the night watchman was burned down and swastikas were painted on more than 10 gravestones.

## PAPARAZZI

Continued from Page 6

Cloney and I was touched by what he had to say," he said. "My wife said to me, 'Joe, why don't you do something about this?'"

The device fits into a baseball cap or a brooch and can be custom-made to go in any clothing accessory. Resnick plans to price it in line with the size of a celebrity's wallet.

"If these people in Los Angeles can go to Spago and spend \$500 for dinner and think nothing of it, then they sure as hell can spend \$500 for one of these," he said.

But, as with many of his peers at the show, Resnick's product has one flaw — it does not always work.

When a photographer asked him to demonstrate how the Paparazzi Stopper worked, Resnick's cap could not quite keep up with the speed of the photographer's flash.

"Your recycle is faster than mine. Hold on. Wait till I give you the word (to photograph me)," Resnick told the waiting photographer.

"OK, I'm ready," he said, posing for the camera.

In real life, paparazzi do not wait to have their pictures spoiled. Professional cameras with motors or battery-packs can take as many as five pictures per second. Multiply that by a slew of paparazzi flashing away like a lightning storm, and it seems clear that Resnick's cap does not stand a chance.

Other Resnick inventions at the show included the Thug Zapper, aimed at discouraging carjacks by jacking them with 360 volts of power. No one checked that one to see if it worked.

Down the hall from him was another hat, but this one had a much more realistic chance of making its inventor a fortune.

The Western Outlaw, a hat that looks like a Steison, has no gadgetry attached and is selling by the truckload. "It keeps the sun off your face and neck, and if it's raining, it keeps the rain off you too," said DeWayne Clough of Western Outlaw Inc.

"If you're stuck wearing a hardhat, you may as well wear something with a bit of style."

This simple invention, which meets all the safety requirements of a hardhat, has sold about 120,000 units at \$35 each since it was launched eight months ago, Clough said.

On a similar note, Steve Robinson hopes to make his fortune with his strange-looking Hoodlum Welding Hoods. Instead of the usual boring hoods, his are masks that give the wearer the choice of looking like a bulldog, a skull or a gorilla.

The funny-looking masks cost \$60 retail or \$37 wholesale, and Robinson is hoping the invention will put him on the gravy train after working more than 20 years in construction.

"It's gone so well for me, I've had to have a big company come in and make them for me and they give me a 10 percent royalty," he said. "I invented some other things years ago but this is the one that is going to make me rich."

No invention show would be complete without a flying car.

Sebastian Sarh of the Advanced Flying Automobile company was standing proudly beside his company's waist-high model, but he did not seem quite sure the project would ever take off.

"It will actually fly," Sarh said. "This is the wind tunnel model. It is a car, but it will fly and it does work."

When will we see cars that really fly as they do in the *Jetsons* TV cartoon? In about 15 years, according to Sarh, pending approval from the Federal Aviation Administration.

But don't hold your breath. And, speaking of holding your breath, inventor Charlie Pahn has something to help on that score — the Super Toilet Seat.

The \$25 device "sucks all the odor out of the toilet before you can smell it," said Pahn's son Mark. "Everybody needs this in the house because everybody goes to the bathroom every single day. And I don't think they like what they smell."

(Reuters)

## After heavy US pressure

# Serbs, Albanians agree to talk peace

By DONALD FORBES

BELGRADE (Reuters) — US mediation ended the diplomatic stalemate in the Kosovo crisis yesterday when Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and Albanian separatist leader Ibrahim Rugova agreed to start talks.

American peacemaker Richard Holbrooke persuaded the two to meet in Belgrade tomorrow and accept weekly sessions between their negotiating teams in Pristina, the Kosovo provincial capital.

Holbrooke warned that the negotiating process was "only a small first step... The vast differences that divide the two sides remain as wide as ever. Neither side made any substantive changes in its positions."

Milosevic's office said he agreed to the meeting "to cut short the unnecessary hesitations which are damaging to everyone."

US sources cautioned strongly against expectations of a breakthrough at the Milosevic-Rugova meeting.

Rugova has demanded independence for Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians make up 90 percent of the 1.8 million population.

Independence has been ruled out by both the West and Milosevic, who has offered only to restore Kosovo's autonomy in Serbia, a republic of federal Yugoslavia.

The prize of talks did not allay Washington's concern about the threat to Balkan peace from the underground Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), which is fighting for the independence of the province.

Holbrooke said the risk of the conflict spreading to neighboring countries is high unless Milosevic and Rugova reach common ground.

"We honestly don't know at this point whether or not [this agreement] will result in an immediate de-escalation of violence," Holbrooke told journalists.

At least 150 people, many of them civilians, have been killed in fighting this year between Serbian police

and the rapidly expanding KLA.

The agreement to negotiate was the climax of a 2-1/2 month diplomatic offensive by the US and its European allies, which imposed sanctions on Yugoslavia for Milosevic's refusal to accept foreign mediation in face-to-face talks.

Holbrooke indicated Rugova had accepted that the direct negotiations would not involve outsiders, but said the Albanian leader had been invited to Washington soon "to see how we can perhaps from the outside help the process."

"There will be no outside people... in the room during the talks," he said.

President Bill Clinton's dispatch of Holbrooke, whose diplomacy helped end the Bosnian war in 1995, was decisive in breaking the deadlock and US diplomats claimed full credit.

"It was the United States that brought them together," one source said.

Holbrooke and US Balkans envoy Robert Gelbard arrived in the region last Saturday and shuttled between Belgrade and Pristina to seek agreement with warnings that time was running out.

The official US statement stressed that Milosevic had accepted "personal responsibility" in the search for a settlement, and this commitment was crucial to Rugova's agreement to accept talks, US sources said.

Gelbard will report on the outcome of the US mediation to a summit of G-8 countries in Britain tomorrow.

He also called a meeting of the Big Power Contact Group — the United States, Russia, Britain, Germany, France and Italy — early next week to review the sanctions imposed on Yugoslavia.

The measures include a freeze of Belgrade's assets abroad and a ban on foreign investment in Yugoslavia.



US special envoy Richard Holbrooke after one of many meetings this week with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade. Holbrooke is largely credited for yesterday's breakthrough in talks over Kosovo. (AP)

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# Down and out in Jakarta

By DAVID LAMB

JAKARTA, Indonesia — On a good day, Jaeni Nurdin can take home 30,000 rupiahs — about \$3 — driving his three-wheel motorcycle taxi.

But Sunday was a bad day. He braked to a noisy halt outside the one-room house he rents in a crowded alley and put a 10,000-rupiah note in his wife's hand.

"Not enough to buy food," she said.

"I know," he replied. "But it will have to do."

He paused for a moment and added: "The students are right. Times have never been worse. They can demonstrate. And us, the poor? We can do nothing. No one hears us."

Ten miles away, in a wealthy south Jakarta neighborhood, classical music and sunshine filled the two-story, skylighted home of Julia Suryakusuma, a well-known feminist and writer. She has always thought of the written word as her weapon and never imagined herself protesting in the streets.

But not long ago, there she was, with 40 other women representing The Voice of Concerned Mothers, marching and shouting. Several were arrested.

It was, she recalled with a touch of warrior's pride, "the first time women ever hit the streets in Indonesia, and a lot of people found it inspiring."

"Our patience is wearing thin after 30 years of repression," she said. "We've ended up with a monarchy of unspeakable corruption. It's an ironic situation. With the depreciation of the rupiah, we've become one of the world's poorest countries, and our president remains one of the world's richest men."

An impoverished taxi driver, an affluent writer, both dissatisfied with the country's leader, Suharto — they are but two in a cast of 200 million who face an uncertain future as once-prosperous Indonesia lurches from economic crisis to political crisis, still haunted by the events of 33 years ago when 500,000 of their countrymen died in a transfer of power.

Indonesia has changed presidents only once in 52 years. That was in 1965, when Suharto swept away the Communist Party and Indonesia's founding father, Sukarno, amid a witch hunt for leftists, real and imagined, that resulted in one of the bloodiest chapters in the modern history of Southeast Asia.

While the country enjoyed steady

growth and impressive development through most of the 1990s, Indonesians tolerated — or at least did not dare question — Suharto's authoritarian, corrupt, nepotistic rule, which brooked no opposition.

But public opinion began turning against him last fall, when the economy crashed in Asia's economic crisis, and today it is so critical that it is hard to find anyone outside his own inner circle who supports him.

Even taxi driver Nurdin, contemplating the student protests that have dragged on for three months, said, "I've never done anything like that, but if things don't get better..." and his voice trailed off.

On Sunday morning, two graduate students, Sangkalo and Abdul, both leading organizers of the growing movement that is challenging Suharto's regime, met in the courtyard of the University of Indonesia's Salemba campus. They had already exchanged information with other student dissidents throughout the country on the Internet.

"First, we are trying to avoid a clash with the security forces," said Sangkalo. "Violence is not our goal. We want a free and open government, and I think people are



Suharto in Cairo this week. Many Indonesians have lost the fear to openly attack the longtime autocrat.

starting to hear our voice. Reform is still possible within the system."

"In the weeks ahead," Abdul said, "we want all the universities — students and teachers — to speak with one voice. We want to broad-

en our support to include the middle class, the working class.

Eventually, I think even ARBI (the military) will join us because soldiers are ordinary people whose families are suffering too."

The students are portraying themselves as a moral force challenging the injustices of the regime.

So far, the Indonesian middle class and other groups have not taken to the streets in large numbers in support of the students, and "people power" remains little more than a popular but misused slogan.

As in most Asian countries, obedience to authority, along with a fear of the military, still runs deep.

To all outward appearances, despite the protests — some of which have involved violence — Indonesia is not a country teetering on the brink of revolution. Life is for the most part normal in Jakarta, the capital, where on Sunday the streets were crowded, youths played soccer in Senayan Square, and a vocalist backed by a four-piece combo entertained shoppers at the Plaza Mall.

But beneath the surface, a growing clamor from every quarter for political change has made "reform" a buzzword.

Reform, however, means some-

thing different to every group. To the students, it means democracy and restructuring society. To the Cabinet, made up of Suharto's cronies, it means tinkering with a few laws. And to Suharto himself, it means uttering platitudes but maintaining the status quo.

"It is quite evident Suharto is not getting the message," said Jeffrey Winters, an expert on Indonesian affairs at Northwestern University. "He is surrounded by yes men, and he is getting a very distorted sense of the rapidly changing conditions around him."

Most political analysts believe that the current standoff between the regime and the people could continue for months.

Few dare predict the future, though the role of the 420,000-member military will be critical in determining what may well be the last chapter of the 76-year-old Suharto's presidency.

What seems certain is that Indonesia, where people now equate their misfortune with government mismanagement, is at a crossroads and that the legacy of Suharto — a one-time bank clerk and former general who amassed one of the world's great fortunes — will be forever tarnished.

(LA Times)

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# Cameos of life in the East End

THE HACKNEY CRUCIBLE by Morris Beckman. Valentine Mitchell 1996. 201 pp.

By Mattityahu Admoni

I AM a non-conformist. I grew up in the post-war Anglo-Jewish society of West London in the 1930s. When most of the other Jewish boys at my non-Jewish grammar school were prepared to play rugby for the school teams on Saturday, I preferred to stay at home and go to the Shabbat services in our local synagogue. This did not make me very popular with my sports teacher because, being taller and more muscular than most of my colleagues, I had the natural build of a front-line forward in the scrum and could sprint fairly well. When my fellow grammar schoolboys were being "clever" and began smoking, at the age of 11 or 12, I was super "clever". I rejected the idea. Similarly when many of my teenage school companions preferred going out on dates, I stayed at home and, for hours, would find great satisfaction and fascination, staring down a microscope at the myriads of microorganisms present in a tiny drop of pond water. That does not mean that I did not associate with members of the opposite sex. I did, but that was not the be-all and end-all of my teenage life, as it was to many of my Jewish friends and acquaintances. I far preferred going to meetings of the religious Bnei Akiva youth movement, rather than going to the non-religious Habonim movement, or to parties, though I had my share of these also.

Something kept on telling me that Jewish values and tradition were still worth preserving in a world that seemed all too eager to throw off the shackles of religion after the tragedy of six years of world war and a Jewish Holocaust. I was witnessing the steady erosion of traditional Jewish life and practice in England in the name of modernity. Even as a youth, somehow, it bothered me. By all accounts, I should have succumbed, like most of my contemporaries, to the non-Jewish grammar school. Yet somehow I was different. I remained Orthodox despite some minor lapses, as they seemed at the time, in my early youth, i.e., before becoming bar mitzva, I actually listening to the radio on Shabbat afternoon while my parents were sleeping, it happened that I ate sweets without first checking if they were kosher.

Nevertheless I regarded myself as a member of the Orthodox community and preferred it that way. Whereas, today, I might be shocked by such behavior, as a youth growing up within the Anglo-Jewish system such ambivalence did not seem to bother me. As one of my secular primary school co-religionists once told me (I was about seven years old, at the time), I was "frum" and that made me different from most. I suppose it was inevitable that I should eventually end up living in Israel as a modern religious Zionist instead of conforming to the English way of life.

Reading *The Hackney Crucible* by Morris Beckman, hundreds of incidents, long forgotten in the deep recess of my memory, came flooding back as I saw myself re-identifying with many of the places and characters he



Sunday morning market in 1949 off Petticoat Lane in London's East End. The area was dominated by Jewish businesses such as Alfred Deitch, Elect, Bubbles, and on the corner, the Kossoff's bakery.

describes in his East London home. His description of their home in Amhurst Road was almost a carbon copy of the home where my mother grew up in North London's Cazenove Road. I could see my "Zeida" (grandfather) sitting in the downstairs parlor as master of the house while "Booba" (grandmother) worked in the scullery with her daughters. I recalled the front and back gardens of their large multi-story house where they grew fruit and vegetables and kept chickens.

Being born in 1940, I was spared the pre-war antisemitic activities of Sir Oswald Mosley's fascist Union Movement in East London but I often heard that name mentioned after the war, as I was growing up, until he was finally stopped by public pressure. Beckman describes this period most vividly, when he, his brothers and his friends would hide behind the garden hedges to avoid being beaten up by the black-shirted fascist youth rampaging after one of their many rallies. The "Battle of Cable Street" showed just what could be achieved if good people, Jew and non-Jew, alike were prepared to take a stand against evil pre-war Nazi propaganda.

There are many delightful cameos of Jewish life in London's East End before the great emigration from North and East London to the "posher" suburbs of N.W. London: Golders Green, Hendon, Hampstead Garden Suburbs etc. to a "better" more affluent life for the first generation English-born children of Eastern European immigrants. As Beckman states,

"British-born Jews were busily climbing upwards and outwards in every direction." I was moved by his ambivalence in wanting to become like the English and throw off all Jewish ritual, on the one hand, yet, at the same time, insisting on sitting beside his mother's death-bed, according to Jewish custom, (instead of hiring special "watchers" until her burial), on the other. Unlike many of his contemporaries, he describes how he continued going to Shabbat morning synagogue services, despite finding them boring and repetitious but could not wait for the service to end so he could get to a football match.

I particularly liked the description of the rabbi cutting short his Shabbat sermon because he knew his "flock" were anxious not to be late for an important local soccer derby! In contrast he describes the rabbi, who taught him to read his bar-mitzva Torah portion, as "a sad man, dull and humorless, a reflection of his lifestyle."

Beckman is quite forthright in his description of the changing attitudes to sexual behavior amongst first generation English-born Jewish youth. I could sympathize with his account of how immigrant fathers and mothers differed in their attitudes to intermarriage when I recalled how my mother supported her brother when one of his children "married out" while the rest of the family disowned him.

Like most of his generation, Beckman recalls how his family kept, and contributed regularly to the "Blue Box" of the Jewish National Fund for buying land in Palestine,

but they failed to heed the advice of Issy, one of his childhood friends who stated, after witnessing a blackshirt rally, "Save your fire for the only solution, Zionism..."

Reading his book brought back many vivid memories of my early life in England. The rapid erosion of a traditional Orthodox Jewish life, within one generation, that Beckman describes, in favor of the "flesh pots" of England, was the same experience I witnessed as a youth. I non-conformed and moved with my family to Israel. Morris Beckman stayed in Britain, like the majority of the people I grew up with in West London.

As a social history of an important section of London's Jewish community in the 1930s it is a compelling book that will stir up many reminders of an age gone-by when Judaism was at a crossroads and a few knew where to turn or how to retain their Jewish values, if they even wanted to, in the face of a growing antisemitism which refused to allow them to forget their origins. It is sad, in the light of later developments from 1948 onwards, that his friend, Issy, had the solution all the time, but, in those troubled days, very few, in England, or the Diaspora as a whole, were prepared to listen.

Mattityahu Admoni was born in 1940 during the London "Blitz." Educated in England as a scientist, he has lived with his family in Israel since 1969 and now spends much of his time writing and lecturing on the Jewish language, history, science and philosophy.

## Granny, get your fun

GRANDMA WORKS AT NIGHT: A DARING NOVEL OF MODERN TIMES by Judith Weber. Armedia Books. 238 pp. Price not stated.

By Esther Hecht

IT'S pretty audacious for a 75-year-old grandmother to invite her family to her new mansion for the weekend and announce that over the past 15 years she's made a fortune by providing erotic conversations on an international party line.

Even more audacious, though, is a 74-year-old grandmother building her first novel around it. Judith Weber, who grew up in Paris and lives in Tel Aviv, writes for French and English publications here, including *The Jerusalem Post*. Probably, like her heroine, she had to learn a whole new vocabulary for this latest undertaking. The "daring" in the subtitle no doubt reflects her sense of adventure in this verbal wonderland.

But those pyrotechnics, and how Juliet Hamilton's children and grandchildren react to granny's revelation, are only part of the story. It's an eye-opener for anyone who has ever tut-tutted about "dirty phone lines." Weber lights fires under notions of respectability, age, love, sex and loneliness and lets them come to a boil.

Improbable as the story is, it's strong enough to keep the pages turning – and this despite the less than felicitous editing. The even more improbable ending should inspire anyone who works with the elderly. But this novel is really a comedy screaming to be staged. Local theater groups could have a ball with it.

## STEIMATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

1. *The Best Laid Plans* by Sidney Sheldon. Warner, HarperCollins.
2. *Op Center 5: Balance of Power* by Tom Clancy, Steve Pieczek. Berkley, HarperCollins.
3. *Unnatural Exposure* by Patricia Cornwell. Warner, Berkley.
4. *Self-Portrait of a Hero* by Jonathan Netanyahu. Warner.
5. *Jephthe's Daughter* by Naomi Ragen. Warner.
6. *London* by Edward Rutherfurd. Fawcett.
7. *Dark Tower 4: Wizard & Glass* by Stephen King. N.E.L., Signet.
8. *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. Sceptre, Vintage.
9. *Toward the End of Time* by John Updike. Penguin, Fawcett.
10. *Necessary Madness* by Jenn Crowell. Warner, Coronet.

Also available from the Jerusalem Post: Book Club, Tel: 02-537-8377. Fax: 02-537-8372. E-mail: orders@post.co.il

## BOOK BYTES

EDWARD BALL'S late father, an Episcopalian priest, was always reluctant to talk about family history. "The Negroes," he once told his son, "are among the topics we don't talk about." The dynastic Ball family of South Carolina rice planters owned some 4,000 slaves between 1698 and the year the American Civil War ended – 1865.

Ed Ball's soul-searching account *Slaves in the Family* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux) has taken the wraps off his family's secret and, at times, less than benevolent past. Miscegenation or interracial breeding, beatings and hangings were features of slave life that the Ball family indulged in during its slave-owning past. Ball's research, which began in 1994, was greatly aided by his ancestors' meticulous record-keeping. The author also visited Sierra Leone to seek out black slave dealers.

At the coming of the millennium, Ball estimates that between 75-100,000 living descendants of the original 4,000 slaves will be scattered around the US. Many carry Ball blood in their veins. Defying his father's dictum, Ball confronts the fact that "The progeny of slaves and progeny of slave owners are forever linked."

"I WAS a reporter on the *Express* (newspaper), and I joined a group of animal-rights activists in South London," says Eileen MacDonald, whose second novel *The Infiltrator* (Simon & Schuster) is a medical thriller loosely based on her own experiences as an investigative journalist. However, MacDonald is quick to stress that she is not the heroine of her own book, who happens to be none other than an undercover reporter. "I haven't got long dark hair, and don't have very long legs!"

The starting point for the book is a search for a cure to Duchenne's Muscular

Dystrophy (DMD), a disease which some medical researchers believe is genetically curable. For someone who has "always been afraid of science," the author met some "great scientists who were terri-

bly excited at what they were doing," and interviewed a 12-year old boy with Duchenne's disease, which was "quite harrowing."

Her book looks into a future of "designer" babies, and draws a rather grim picture of genetic science.

A PRIZE-WINNING novelist of nine books, David Caute, is having to self-publish his tenth work, because he claims that British publishers are "too afraid to touch it."

The book was turned down by 25 publishers. *Fatima's Scarf* (Toucan) grapples with the thorny issue of Islamic fundamentalism. One of the thumbs-down publishers (who preferred his name not be mentioned) said that the book was not accepted, because "it really wasn't that good."

However, author Hilary Mantel, who read and liked the book, said she thought it was rejected purely on the grounds of the publishers' "political and intellectual timidity."

GEORGE SALMOND is a professor of molecular microbiology at Cambridge University. Under his entry in *Who's Who*, he listed among his recreations, daily avoidance of assorted professional beggars, alcoholics and deranged individuals in the streets of Cambridge.

His ill-considered quip aroused the ire of Ruth Wyner, director of a charity for the homeless. "Homelessness is not funny," she said. "It is literally a matter of life and death."

THE 1997 Book of the Year Award went to Helen Fielding for *Bridget Jones's Diary* (Viking). The author commented, "Last time I was given an award was for Bible reading and I think all I said then was: 'Thank you, Jesus.'"

MYSTERY NOVELIST Chaz Brenchley and sci-fi writer Gwyneath Jones will be speaking at the British Council Garden, 3 Shimonon St., Baka, Jerusalem, this evening at 8 p.m. For details call 02-673-6733. Dress warmly. No admission charge.

David Brauner

## The New York Times

### BESTSELLERS

#### HARDCOVER Fiction

1. *You Belong to Me* by Mary Higgins Clark. (Simon & Schuster \$25.) A popular radio talk-show host finds herself endangered when she undertakes to expose a killer who targets lonely women on cruise ships.
2. *"N" is for Noose* by Sue Grafton. (Knopf \$25.) Kinsey Millhone pursues the facts behind the sudden, strange death of a cop in a California town.
3. *Black and Blue* by Anna Quindlen. (Random House \$23.) After her husband turns violent, a woman flees to Florida with her young son.
4. *Message in a Bottle* by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner \$20.) After finding a seaborne bottle containing an enigmatic letter, a divorced woman encounters love.
5. *The Long Road Home* by Danielle Steel. (Delacorte \$25.95.) A woman who grew up in a fractured family tries to find the courage to confront the past.
6. *The Street Lawyer* by John Grisham. (Doubleday \$27.95.) A young lawyer comes to terms with himself after discovering his prestigious firm's dirty secrets.
7. *A Patchwork Planet* by Anne Tyler. (Knopf \$24.) Estranged from his affluent family, a self-destructive, voyeuristic underachiever tries to cope with life and love.
8. *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. (Atlantic Monthly \$24.) A wounded Confederate soldier journeys home.
9. *Pandora* by Anne Rice. (Knopf \$19.95.) A 2,000-year-old vampire recounts her experiences.
10. *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden. (Knopf \$25.) The life of a young woman in prewar Kyoto.

#### HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. (Doubleday \$19.95.) A sportswriter tells of his weekly visit to his old college mentor, who was near death's door.
2. *We Are Our Mothers' Daughters* by Cokie Roberts. (Morrow \$19.95.) The television news anchor's personal reflections on women in politics and business and as mothers, wives, sisters and friends.
3. *The Gifts of the Jews* by Thomas Cahill. (Farrar \$23.50.) What Western civilization owes an ancient tribe.
4. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt. (Scribner \$24.) An Irish-American writer recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick.
5. *The Millionaire Next Door* by Thomas J. Stanley. Wealthy Americans have seven characteristics in common.
6. *Triumph of Justice* by Daniel Petrocelli with Peter Knobler. (Crown \$25.95.) The lawyer who represented the Goldmans in the O.J. Simpson civil rights trial explains what it told him about Simpson and the legal system in the US.
7. *Talking to Heaven* by James Van Praagh. (Dutton \$22.95.) A "world-famous medium" discusses communication with the other side.
8. *Aphrodite* by Isabel Allende. (Harper Flamingo \$26.) A novelist celebrates the pleasures of food and sex.
9. *Amazing Grace* by Kathleen Norris. (Riverhead \$24.95.) A poet reflects on her discovery of religious faith and the meaning of the language.
10. *Conversations with God: Book 1* by Neale Donald Walsch. (Putnam \$19.95.) The author addresses questions of love and good and evil.

#### PAPERBACK Fiction

1. *Pretend You Don't See Her* by Mary Higgins Clark. (Pocket \$7.99.) A chance witness to a murder must live anonymously to save her life.
2. *The Horse Whisperer* by Nicholas Evans. (Del \$7.50.) A woman seeks solace for her daughter and their horse from a wrangler.
3. *Tom Clancy's Op-Center: Balance of Power* created by Tom Clancy and Steve Pieczek. (Berkley \$7.50.) American intelligence agents try to prevent another civil war in Spain.
4. *Sanctuary* by Nora Roberts. (Jove \$7.50.) A photographer, coming to grips with her past, returns to the Georgia Inn that her family operates.
5. *Plum Island* by Nelson DeMille. (Warner \$7.99.) A detective probes the murder of a Long Island couple who may have been involved in germ warfare research.
6. *London* by Edward Rutherfurd. (Fawcett \$7.99.) Two thousand years of life in Britain's capital as seen by six families.
7. *Secrecy* by Belva Plain. (Del \$7.50.) The horrifying memory of a teenage experience haunts a woman who is a member of a leading family in a New England town.
8. *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* by Rebecca Wells. (Harper Perennial \$13.50.) Three generations of Southern women.
9. *A Thin Dark Line* by Terri Hoag. (Bantam \$6.99.) A Louisiana deputy's determination to correct a botched murder case leads her into trouble.
10. *Here on Earth* by Alice Hoffman. (Berkley \$13.) Returning to her hometown after 18 years, a woman encounters her old love.

#### PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95.) A journalist's account of his ascent on Mt. Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
2. *James Cameron's Titanic* by Ed W. Marsh. Photographs by Douglas Kirkland. (Harper Perennial \$20.) A lavishly illustrated account of the making of the film.
3. *Personal History* by Katharine Graham. (Vintage \$15.) The autobiography of the former publisher of *The Washington Post*.
4. *Under the Tuscan Sun* by Frances Mayes. (Broadway \$13.) A celebration of life in the Italian countryside by an American poet.
5. *A Child Called It* by Dave Pelzer. (Health Communications \$9.95.) The autobiography of a man who survived his mother's abuse.
6. *The Color of Water* by James McBride. (Riverhead \$12.) A black writer and musician recalls his experiences growing up with his white mother in a Brooklyn housing project.
7. *A Night to Remember* by Walter Lord. (Bantam \$5.99.) An historian's account of the Titanic disaster.
8. *The Lost Boy* by Dave Pelzer. (Health Communications \$10.95.) The author of *A Child Called It* recalls life in a series of foster homes.
9. *Leonardo DiCaprio: Romantic Hero* by Mark Bego. (Boswell/Andrews McMeel \$10.95.) An illustrated biography of the film actor.
10. *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95.) The story of a young man whose obsession with the wilderness had a tragic end in Alaska.

#### PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff ... and It's All Small Stuff* by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95.) How to enjoy life more and contribute to the world we live in.
2. *Dr. Atkins New Diet Revolution* by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$6.50.) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.
3. *Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul*, compiled by Jack Canfield et al. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspirational stories.
4. *Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul*, compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Hansen, Mary Becker and Carol Kline. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspirational stories.

#### HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. *Simple Abundance* by Sarah Ban Breathnach. (Warner \$17.95.) Advice for women seeking to improve the way they look at themselves.
2. *The 9 Steps to Financial Freedom* by Suze Orman. (Crown \$23.) Ways to manage your money now and in the future.
3. *In the Meantime* by Iyanla Vanzant. (Simon & Schuster \$23.) Ways to find out what you truly need, particularly "the love that you want."
4. *Sugar Busters* by H. Leighton Steward et al. (Ballantine \$22.) A diet designed for losing weight, increasing energy and combating disease.



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## In from the cold

It took 13 years, but on Monday the government finally admitted what everyone knew anyway: Jonathan Pollard was an authorized Israeli agent and not a volunteer in a rogue operation. That act should be the first step in a process of moving away from the denials and obfuscations of the past decade, dealing with the matter in an honest and forthright manner, and finally winning Jonathan Pollard's release from prison. If the government now handles the issue properly, his release might be not far off.

The damage caused by the Pollard Affair has been extraordinarily heavy. Not that friendly nations and allies do not spy on each other — on the contrary, although few will admit it, such activity is almost expected. In many cases, when spies in friendly countries are caught, the matter does not even come to the attention of the media. The nations involved usually prefer to deal with it confidentially between themselves, coming to an arrangement while quietly expelling the foreign agents involved. What made the Pollard Affair different was the recruitment of an American Jew to provide Israel with highly classified documents stolen directly from the intelligence department of the US Navy, where Pollard was employed as a civilian analyst. Such an action struck a raw nerve in the US and in the American Jewish community because it touched upon the old smear that Jews are prone to dual loyalties and cannot be trusted in sensitive positions in government or the military. The potential harm to the career advancement of many Jews in America from the substantiation of such allegations due to Israeli actions, and the anger this caused among the American Jewish leadership, is not something any Israeli government can afford to ignore.

While the recruitment and handling of Pollard was stupid and damaging in the first place, the subsequent behavior of Israel after his exposure was dismaying as well. Pollard served as an Israeli agent directed by persons who held top positions in the Scientific Liaison Office, a clandestine official unit operating under the auspices of senior government ministers. It is difficult to believe that the information Pollard supplied, which included highly coveted secret satellite photographs that the US had refused to give Israel, was not noted by top-ranking intelligence officers who knew of its source. Nevertheless, Israel treated Pollard as if he were a private individual who had volunteered information on an ad hoc basis from the moment that Pollard, with the FBI closing in on him, was denied entry into the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

The public position that the most senior gov-

ernment ministers — including Yitzhak Shamir, Moshe Arens, Yitzhak Rabin, and Shimon Peres — chose to adopt was that Israel bore no direct responsibility for the affair, even as they quietly paid for Pollard's legal defense and sent intermediaries to Washington to push for his release. The tactic they selected was based on the assumption that winning Pollard's release required subtle diplomatic actions that would not be perceived as provocative by the US administration. Pollard was never officially admitted to have been an Israeli agent and appeals for his release were consistently presented in humanitarian terms.

Those efforts, over 13 years, did not succeed in obtaining Pollard's release. There are now indications that a different approach might be in order. Subsequent US administrations have treated the Pollard Affair as the extremely serious act of an American traitor. Until now, the Clinton administration has refused to even consider any of Israel's appeals for Pollard's release, while the highly covered parade of Israeli politicians visiting Pollard in prison only made matters worse. The White House and the American intelligence community have consistently insisted that ending the affair first required a clear statement of Israeli responsibility and full cooperation in examining what intelligence documents Pollard handed over to Israel.

Now that the government has officially acknowledged Pollard's role as an agent of Israel, the US and Israel can deal with the matter as two friendly governments working to repair intelligence relations that were damaged by a spy affair. The US reportedly has a long list of demands, including the return of all the documents Pollard gave Jerusalem before his arrest in 1985, renewed commitments that American citizens will not be recruited for Israeli espionage, and limitations on Pollard's freedom upon release. On the other hand, the indications are that Washington wants to put the Pollard Affair behind it. He has been in jail since 1985 and his intelligence information is clearly dated. There is also pressure for his release from American Jewish leaders, who could help Vice President Al Gore win Jewish support for his presidential campaign in 2000.

Obtaining Pollard's release will obviously require secret and intense negotiations involving some give and take. With Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu this week visiting the US along with a retinue of his most senior advisers, these negotiations can begin immediately. A serious effort on the part of the government now can finally bring about the sight of a smiling Jonathan Pollard, clutching his Israeli passport, landing at Ben-Gurion Airport.

DEER 98



## Israel alone

URI DAN  
DENNIS EISENBERG

Center stage is dominated by the two US arch-maons, Madeleine Albright and Hillary Clinton, out to pound Israel into submission and bow to Yasser Arafat's dream of ruling a Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem.

But it is backstage where the real Middle East drama is building up into a huge upheaval. One which not only is liable to become an all-out crisis for the Jewish state, but also threatens the rest of the region, and the stability of Western Europe and even the US.

Clues to this very real scenario are giving deep concern to the intelligence services of Israel, the US and Western Europe. Above all, they are stoking the ambitions of Saddam Hussein to such an extent that he flexes his muscles with the arrogance of a man who believes his wildest dreams are on the verge of becoming reality.

His goal is to become master of the entire Gulf region and hold the West in thrall to his ambition of controlling the lifeblood of the West and Japan — i.e. the oil of the Gulf states, Kuwait and of course Saudi Arabia.

The facts are so startling that President Clinton has been moved out in a recent editorial, "Iraq is still cheating," alarming reports are reaching Western intelligence that Iraq continues to pursue an active policy of hiding vast quantities of unconventional weapons, it is hard at work trying to widen both their range and potency.

Nothing has made this clearer than the efforts of Saddam's agents to persuade Pakistani nuclear weapon specialists to supply "our Moslem brothers in the front line against Israeli-Americans" with technology needed to rid the Middle East of their presence.

Proof of this was prompted by Saddam's son-in-law when he defected to the West in 1996. As head of the Iraqi secret weapons procurement program, he handed over vast files which proved that Pakistan showed much sympathy

to Iraq's nuclear ambitions. Information given to the International Atomic Agency is causing great concern about the cooperation between Iraq and Pakistan, which has the skill to put together at least one atomic bomb.

Pakistan has recently been sharply criticized by the US for obtaining key missile parts from North Korea, and there is no doubt that this material is also being made available to Iraq.

Sensing that Saddam is now wielding the whip in the Middle East, Suh Arafat sent two plane-loads of medical supplies from El Arish in Egypt to Iraq recently for "your sick and starving children," to underline the Palestinian support for him.

Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states are also discreetly dispatching friendly feelers towards Saddam as they feel increasingly disenchanted by what they discern as a weak president crippled by personal problems that dominate his twilight period in the White House.

Britain's Tony Blair appears to be the sole Western leader to give signs of strong leadership as the curtain heralding the end of the 20th century descends, and Israel faces a life or death challenge from Iraq.

The depths of Baghdad's doom were underscored when a Channel 2 News reporter — on a CNN program with other journalists — asked Saddam's right-hand man, Tariq Aziz, if her country did the right thing by taking precautions against a possible gas or chemical attack during the recent Gulf crisis.

With a sneer on his face, Aziz refused to reply. The message is clear: Israel, and Israel alone, must address the aggressive intentions posed by the brutal dictator.

Will Israel's prime minister be bold and resourceful enough to take the necessary steps to stop Saddam Hussein in his tracks? His courage in standing up to Washington's blackmail this week is an encouraging sign that his nerve will not fail him.

## Bonfires among the vanities

HELEN SCHARY MOTRO

The last place kids want to build the campfire of their dreams is in the vacant lot between their mother's kitchen window and the neighbor's wash. So as soon as they passed kindergarten age, the kids around here did everything to escape the neighborhood on Lag Ba'omer.

Since they couldn't travel very far, they used to hold their class bonfires on the sandy stretches at the outskirts of town, known for some hopeful reason as the "industrial zone." Fires would burn every 50 meters or so. Children scampered in circles poking sticks in and out of the flames, or sang in unison with their heads on one another's shoulders. Meanwhile the parents would stand a little ways off in a huddle, trying to read their watches by firelight, cradling coffee in paper cups, and waiting for the all-clear signal to take their children home. They balefully eyed the surrounding wasteland, hoping their car tires wouldn't get stuck in the sand traps that mass-queraded as public thoroughfares.

But if they did get stuck, they were in the right place. For the industrial zone of Herzliya was home to a variety of automotive repair shops — and to very little else. One open-air restaurant served pita stuffed with meatballs intended to be washed down with a Tempo. After seven, the place was a ghost town. In short, the perfect location for a bonfire.

A MERE decade later Herzliya's industrial zone appears to enjoy the GNP of a mid-size emerging nation. The crowds surging at noon down the cobblestones of the newly paved sidewalks are reminiscent of the energized masses of New York or Hong Kong.

Sporting dark sunglasses, designer sport shirts, and sleek NIS 120 haircuts, these straight-aways talk animatedly to one another, appear oblivious to the outside world, and are in a hurry to get wherever they are going. But most remarkable about the anti-flower children — it is almost impossible to find one single face older than 35.

Their fame has spread far beyond Israel's Silicon Valley. The *Economist* of May 9th featured a hot new company called Mirabilis whose software has been used by 11 million people worldwide. Where does little Mirabilis call home? Where else but our modest industrial zone...

Logos of famous high-tech brands may tower over the new glass and steel office buildings, but the real power is hidden deep inside. There dynamic young brains click their ideas onto electronic receivers, hoping to become another Mirabilis.

Fledgling firms ticked into nameless offices aim for a \$1 million share offering on the New York Stock Exchange — or at least some frenzied trading down in Tel Aviv.

These energetic yuppies exit their offices to find a myriad of merchants eager to lure the plastic from their wallets. Every major bank has opened at least one branch in the industrial zone. There are stores displaying Parisian clothing, designer lighting, imported liquors, Italian home designs, European office equipment. One building boasts a state-of-the-art fitness center open 16 hours a day.

Every inch of soil is utilized; cranes and construction abound. New mini-malls seem to mushroom once a month. The few remaining plots of unbuild land have been paved over to rake in lucrative fees in this parking nightmare. There are underground garages and one huge new building consecrated solely for high-level parking.

The restaurants alone could fill an entire Red Michelin. Within one random two-block area I counted: one Indian, two Japanese, one Spanish, one fish, one seafood, two Chinese, three steak houses, one "Jewish," one espresso bar, one "humus plus," one French, two American, one fast food, one ice cream parlor and one Hungarian. And I probably missed some.

What's going through their heads as they wolf down basilicum sandwiches on Parmesan bread dribbled with extra virgin olive oil? "I feel sorry for them," my fiftyish friend asserted with a grin. They never had the Sixties... At dusk their upwardly mobile cars choke the exits to the highway.

But the industrial zone is never empty nowadays. In their place affluent suburbanites throng hungrily in to the second shift of dinners provided by the ecstatic restaurateurs.

But time and the Jewish calendar wait for no man. Lag Ba'omer rolls around again. Where can kids go to hold their campfires nowadays? Still dying to escape the vacant lot underneath their mothers' watchful gaze, they've unearthed a new pristine locale not far from the industrial zone: the beach. That's one place where the municipality hasn't issued too many building permits — yet.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### DANA AS ROLE MODEL

Sir, — Contrary to David Bedin's contention on behalf of the people of Israel "Dana International" (May 11), the taxpayers' contribution to Dana International's appearance at the Eurovision was completely justified.

The declaration of the establishment of the State of Israel clearly states: "The State of Israel... will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all the inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex..."

Dana represented Israel in a pop musical competition; her sexual

identity was irrelevant. We can all rejoice in her accomplishment and in the return on our investment.

Also, contrary to his claim, Dana can be incorporated into mainstream family values. We struggle to teach our children to be true to themselves despite the forces of conformity which press upon them. Dana is a role model for the right of the individual and the minority to be different: she is also a role model for the courage and determination to succeed for one's own sake and for the country.

Like Joey Silver "Gay family values" (May 12), I am national

religious; unlike him I am not homosexual. But homosexuals are also created in the Divine image and I pray that the interpreters of the Halacha will soon find a way to embrace Silver's inclusivity and accommodate homosexuality.

Unlike Silver, I am not a Herutnik. My dream is that the May 1999 Eurovision will be held in a Jerusalem of peace — and that we'll be able to vote for a Palestinian entrant.

B.J. HOLLANDER

Jerusalem.

### STATE RELIGION

Sir, — Jonathan Rosenblum, in "Bashava uncovered" (May 8), writes that cultural sensitivity would be appropriate at a government-sponsored celebration "even if Judaism were not Israel's official religion."

Yes indeed, but since when does the State of Israel have an official religion? The government supports several religions, of which Judaism is only the most prominent.

MARK L. LEVINSON

Herzliya.

### WAY TO GO!

Sir, — I fail to understand the brouhaha over Dana International. Here is a person who was unhappy as a man and had the courage and conviction to do something about it.

To think that since winning the Eurovision, that the youth of Israel will follow her lead is to disregard our education system, trivialize our parenting, and most important underestimate our sons' intelligence. What Dana went through was costly, painful and not something rushed into.

She is a woman now and should

Ashdod.

JESSICA KEHMKAR

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On May 14, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that anti-Nazi phrases were chalked up on and in front of the German consulate in Jerusalem. In London, a wreath which Herr Hitler's representative Herr Rosenberg placed on the cenotaph at Whitehall was thrown into the Thames by an ex-serviceman, Captain J.E. Sears, who was fined forty shillings for willfully damaging the wreath.

50 years ago: On May 14,

1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that the Jewish state would be proclaimed that day and the 33-man National Council would become the provisional council of government. It was announced that the declaration would be made at a modest assembly meeting somewhere in Tel Aviv. A three-point proclamation was expected to be issued authorizing the National Council to enact the state's authority abrogating the White Paper legislation and

retaining all other legislation until the new code of laws was enacted.

25 years ago: On May 14, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported the cabinet's decision that Arabs from all over the world would soon be able to visit relatives in the administered areas and East Jerusalem the whole year round and not only during the summer months.

Alexander Zvielli

## The doc's progress

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY Jr.

they were examined. Who became infected, and who developed symptoms of a cold? The heroes in question were paid \$800 to go through this procedure, which sun should surely be the minimum wage for anyone inducing a cold. The tests didn't give us any news

How many would be dead but for the medicines discovered in the past 50-odd years?

one could classify as welcome.

It transpires that stress is a very big factor in catching cold. Stress is caused by the obvious things (getting fired, going broke, being cuckolded) but also by unsuspected causes: e.g., isolation.

If you are socially active, with your family, with friends, with business associates, your level of stress is low, and that equanimity does what? It tends — we learn — to make you resistant to cold viruses. If you are sad and lonely, you won't for that reason catch a cold. But if a cold bug is floating around, it is likelier to victimize you than if you are vibrant and mixing it up with friends and family.

There are those (I'm one) who suffer most grievously from common colds. I have predicted that when I die, the cause of death will be a common cold. But the logic here must be carefully traced. If A then B does not mean if not B then not A.

A friend who is a renowned doctor got a cold so incapacitating last January as to keep him home for

23 days, unprecedented in his experience. The doctor, treating a dozen patients every day, is exposed to myriad cold germs, but the same would be true of subway riders and airplane passengers.

It is manifestly incorrect to assume that sudden social despondency aggravated his condition; so that we learn from random experiences nothing more than that you can be intensely social and still get floored by the common cold.

THE search for cures is healthy, even if a philosophical turn of mind is forced upon us ever since Ponce de Leon came back from Florida in the 16th century without the vial of water that would give him eternal youth. Death is a sullen absolute, but there are people alive who would be dead except for these medical discoveries.

It is instructive, at inquisitive gatherings of family and friends, to ask around: How many would be dead but for the medicines discovered in the past 50-odd years? A statistic on the matter isn't readily come by, so that one's feel for it is impressionistic. Is it safe to say that 20 percent of Americans are alive who otherwise wouldn't be?

The lure of medical discovery is a potent drug and Folkman is the embodiment of the scientific hero. He goes to great lengths to fight off publicity. He gives credit to his colleagues in any conceivable situation. He has endured the aggressive contempt of many contemporaries during his long struggle.

He is separated by googols from the 276 cold-detection volunteers, but shares a muse with them. How heavily we depend upon, and how insufficiently we venerate, these pioneers.

(Universal Press Syndicate)

05/14/98



Bonfire among the vanities  
MELEN SCHARNY

# Weekender

## Hollywood tightens its belt

After years of making high-budget films, the major studios are scaling down their production costs

By PAUL FARRH and SHARON WAXMAN

Few stars in Hollywood have been as bankable as Arnold Schwarzenegger. Yet last year Warner Bros. suspended plans to produce the actor's latest would-be epic, *I Am Legend* — a remake of the 1971 mutants-inherit-the-earth film *The Omega Man*. The reason Ah-nold was dissed: a projected budget of more than \$100 million and a still-unfinished script, the sci-fi story didn't seem like a "smart bet" for the time being, said Warner co-chairman Robert Daly.

A-listers like Schwarzenegger get put on hold, now something has changed in Hollywood.

Warner's newfound caution says much about the general unease in the movie business these days. Despite a record box office haul of \$6.4 billion last year, there seems to be no joy in Mainland.

Low-grade *snuff* the industry's symptoms are nagging and persistent: a marketplace cluttered with too many films; soaring production and marketing costs; a home-video market; a sagging international market. Tossing these factors together, many executives are concluding that the economics of moviemaking just don't add up.

As Daly, one of the most experienced executives in the industry, "Two years ago, the eco- were totally different... As business, we have some urgent problems right now."

Sound familiar? It should. Hollywood's spendthrift ways have caused periodic hand-wringing for decades. The last low moan publicly was from former president Jeffrey Katzenberg, whose much-leaked "internal memo" in 1991 warned of impending disaster if the industry didn't get some fiscal discipline.

There's one big thing working such hold-the-line cheer-history.

Business founded on the material of human talent, movies are subject to the same bidding spirals as professional sports. "It's like losing weight," observes Douglas Gomery, a professor of Maryland professor studies the economics of the movie and entertainment business. "They're always declaring that it's time to go on a diet. At the same time, they're unbelievably nervous that they're going to miss the next boat. They can't help themselves."

Yet on the eve of the summer movie season, there are several reasons to believe something has

to give, that current conditions are fundamentally different from those of, say, the past two decades.

For one thing, filmmakers must try to appeal simultaneously to two very different demographic groups — a younger audience of frequent moviegoers and the huge mass of aging baby boomers.

What's more, there don't seem to be any technological breakthroughs — like VCRs, cable and satellite TV in the recent past — that could provide new customers and income streams. Digital video discs — a new, improved version of the videocassette — haven't taken off yet, and high-definition TV won't be widespread until some time in the next decade, at the earliest.

The movie industry also seems to be the only business in the world not enjoying cost savings from new technologies. If anything, the opposite is true.

Ubiquitous computer-driven special effects — everything from *Titanic's* tumbling bodies to the city-destroying tidal wave in *Deep Impact* — are a major reason why production costs jumped by more than a third for the average big-studio release last year, their biggest increase in decades.

It now costs Disney, Paramount, Fox, Warner and the other studios an average of \$53.4 million to produce a film — nearly double what it cost as recently as 1992. Marketing costs — mainly expensive TV and newspaper ads — added another \$22.3m. per film, almost twice what it cost in 1990.

All this has put pressure on profits and on the executives hired to generate them.

When returns start resembling those of a passbook savings account, "It keeps you questioning your choices," said Tom Pollock, a former head of Universal Pictures who now heads a production company.

"At that point you make movies to keep the (film) library fresh, to build an asset base, so when you sell your company you can sell it for more."

Studios are responding in time-honored fashion: by cutting production slates, talking about fiscal discipline and chopping off heads.

At Universal, now owned by the Canadian beverage company Seagrams Co., an executive purge began last month following a lackluster 1997 and a disappointing box office start this year.

After a thin slate of films last year, the studio had high hopes for its pricey, prestigious project *Primary Colors*. Despite critical praise and a \$65m. budget, it has so far earned a disappointing \$38m. domestically.

Another recent big-budget release, the Bruce Willis action movie *Mercury Rising*, has done worse, generating just \$28 million.



Even Arnold Schwarzenegger is affected by Tinseltown's new fiscal discipline.

Universal's upcoming releases aren't generating much excitement within industry circles, either.

Warner illustrates the new Hollywood shuffle. For nearly two decades, the studio prospered by making movies with big-name stars who nearly guaranteed box office success. But more recently, it has turned out one dud after another — from *Batman* and *Robin* with George Clooney and Schwarzenegger to *Mad City* with Dustin Hoffman and John Travolta, and Kevin Costner's disastrous *The Postman*.

While acknowledging that 1997 "was a bad year," Warner's Daly says the answer is to do more with less — by making fewer and better films. Next year and beyond, the studio plans to release about 20

movies, compared with about 30 a year until this year.

Beyond the new stress on better management, however, there's a palpable sense of uncertainty at the studios. No one has ever really known how to guarantee a hit, but the task of making even a moderately successful film these days is complicated by ferocious competition and the complex demographic trends.

Hollywood has only recently begun to respond to the newly re-emergent teenage market, the driving force behind the surprise success of the two *Scream* horror films and its clone, *I Know What You Did Last Summer*.

This group is also fueling the phenomenal repeat business of *Titanic* — particularly among

teenage girls who idolize star Leonardo DiCaprio.

The confusion is reflected not only in the shake-ups at major studios but in the diverse choices moviegoers now have at the multiplex.

"The studios are still on a learning curve," said Chris Pula, Warner's former marketing chief, who also headed marketing at New Line for several years. "They have not caught up with the audience, and they've created their own hell in producing this movie tonnage," she said.

"Now the power has shifted to the consumer who is telling us, 'I don't want derivative. I want original, risky product that I haven't seen before.'"

(The Washington Post)

## Great shakes

By SONE LEMOR

If you did a survey of which street in Tel Aviv had the most coffee shops per person, the first on the list would be Sheinkin Street. And located in the center of the mass is Sus Eitz, a place where I like to sit when I'm in Tel Aviv.

Sus Eitz is situated directly in front of a small park where young couples conveniently leave their children while enjoying a fresh fruit shake or milk shake at one of the outside tables at Sus Eitz. When sitting at this trendy cafe, you can expect many of the aspiring young actors, musicians and artists of Tel Aviv to stroll by, all decked out and looking to be discovered.

Outside there are about 15 tables, usually full, being served by would-be actresses. Nothing fancy, the tables are simple wooden affairs, with wooden, not very comfortable folding chairs.

Inside on the right is a bar with a lanky artist-type bartender and another 20 or so tables, also usually full.

"My husband, Eran, and I are partners," says co-owner Adi Ramati. "Sus Eitz has been in existence for six years," she adds proudly.

Next to the bar is a stairway that leads up to a gallery. Until recently you could purchase all sorts of gimmicks there, like inflatable plastic chairs and Dali style clocks. "We are changing the concept of the gallery," Adi comments. "We want to sell things that are more related to the food industry, like unique glasses and plates, maybe even homemade foods." According to Adi, this new gallery will be open in about a month.

Speaking of food, the culinary experience at Sus Eitz is quite good. The menu is a bit pricey but the portions are large and make up for it. (A Greek salad costs NIS 28, for example, with an additional NIS 7 for bread and butter.) The two dishes that I most recommend are padthai (Thai noodles NIS 35) and chicken breast in a cream and mustard sauce (NIS 35). The padthai at Sus Eitz is one of the major reasons that I frequent the place. "It's amazing," asserts actor and singer Yehezkel Lazarov. "I never thought that an Israeli coffee shop would serve something like this."

Padthai is a dish of angel hair rice noodles, slices of chicken breast, vegetables and peanuts in a soy sauce. The chicken in cream and mustard sauce is a bit heavy during the hot summer days but for evening munchies, it is a definite hit.

Sus Eitz serves a decent cup of coffee and excellent fresh fruit shakes.

This popular hang-out is open on Friday nights and Saturday afternoons, so after baking in the sun at the beach (roughly a 10-minute walk away), you can indulge in the fashionable fun of Sus Eitz.

Sus Eitz is open from 9 a.m. until at least 1 a.m. seven days a week.

Sus Eitz, 20 Sheinkin Street, Tel Aviv

## Artists on my mind

MK Yuri Stern talks about his favorite painters

Israel Ba'aliya MK Yuri Stern was born in Moscow in 1949. With a Ph.D. in economics from Moscow University, he worked in his field until he was permitted to make aliya in 1981. Unable to secure an invitation for immigration, Stern says he was "a Jewish activist without being a refusenik."

He lives in Gilo with his wife, floral designer Elena Stern. They have two children.

Stern is a member of the Foreign Affairs and the Security Committee in the Knesset, as well as the Absorption and Labor and Social Relations committees. He is also chairman of the Israel-Russia Interdisciplinary (Friendship) Association, which strives to foster goodwill and understanding between the two nations.

A great art enthusiast Stern says, "I loved the museums in Moscow, and I miss them here. The Israel Museum in Jerusalem is a good one. I go there sometimes to relax."

Here he talks about his five favorite artists.

1. Istvan Csontvary  
"This Hungarian artist was originally a physician who was self-taught in the arts. One of his last paintings depicted Hungarian tribes invading the current territory of Hungary. It is a self-portrait, with Csontvary leading the army on a white donkey. He was, in fact, rather crazy and had messianic notions about himself and Hungary. He traveled a lot and painted many pictures of Italy, Greece, and Israel. Some of his greatest pictures are of Jerusalem. He had an unbelievable power to depict the mystique of the Jerusalem landscape. When I discovered his work, as a university student, it was very exciting to find a great artist who represented



2. Edvard Munch  
"He was a Norwegian artist, one of the predecessors of expressionist art. The Tel Aviv Museum has a good collection of his graphics. He had a great ability to play with colors — sometimes bright, sometimes variations of the dull gray/blue of the northern landscape. This was the most striking for me. His recurring theme is the 'aloneness' of people: the transposition of life into death. Sex and death. Sex as an attempt to escape from the aloneness — but an unsuccessful one. No one expresses that more strongly than Munch. In his paintings you see people standing near each other but isolated. Or sitting at a death bed. Or the cosmos, with infinite space around us."

3. Maurits Cornelis Escher  
"He was a Dutch graphic artist who played a lot with geometric forms. He displayed a kind of graphics humor by playing with line and form in classic perspective, then suddenly showing something surreal. Water flowing uphill, for example. Or buildings in which by going upstairs, you move downstairs. He did a lot of parody; he was very intellectual."

4. Goya  
"The work of this Spanish artist is unbelievable — his modernism. Some of his paintings are classics, very well known worldwide. But the amazing thing is that some of his pictures look like they were painted a century later. They are partly expressionist/surrealist and partly a result of his mental problem that pushed him into changing the rules of classic painting."

5. Michael Vrubel  
"This Russian painter started off doing classic Russian academic art. Then he developed a symbolism of his own, with a very special attitude toward color and broken forms. Some of his images look like a combination of cubism and pointillism, as though he were breaking the picture into small pieces, like a mosaic. Vrubel used a unique violet/purple. It was a strange kind of mystic, colorful space that seems to be very deep, with mysterious things covered in the depth of that color. Although Vrubel was one of the greatest artists of Russia, he was virtually unknown abroad."

— Ruth Beloff-Begun

## Hot tips

By DAHLIA SCHENDLIN  
Tel Aviv

A special treat is found at the Inbal Ethnic Center this evening, with the sensual Flamenco guitar music of Baldi Olier, starting at 8:30 p.m.

Modern as well as ethnic styles combine to produce Sephiro, a musical event taking place tonight at Hasmita Theater in Old Jaffa. The performance involves wind instruments, piano, and a smattering of African music. Starts at 9 p.m., 8 Mazal Hadagim, Old Jaffa. Call (03) 681-4024.

The modern becomes hyper-modern in a show called Blitachshut Leili ("Night Occurrences"). A multimedia musical performance that addresses the subject of music in relation to politics, this very original work is presented by composers Dror Elimelech and Luigi Nony. At Bichurei Ha'itim, 6 Heftman, starting at 9 p.m. Call (03) 691-9510.

Brand-new Fringe productions premiere tonight. Thursday is the last evening in a four-day original Fringe marathon.

The Cameri theater is not to be upstaged by anyone. It, too, has a new production tonight. *Petra* is a play written by Yehonatan Geffen showing tonight at ZOZ at 4:30 and 8:30.

Although Beit Lessin is working hard on its reputation as a musical venue — note tonight's regular Thursday night new rock performances, downstairs — the locale is still a theater as well. *South of Paradise* plays tonight, a drama about a cross-section of Israeli life in the context of a family-run cof-

fee shop. A home-grown play, written by Hillel Mittlepunkt, it starts at 8:30 p.m. (03) 695-6222.

Batsheva has moved beyond the *Jubilee Bells* frenzy and presents two new works tonight, by visiting choreographers Tero Saarinen from Finland, and Slovenia's Iztok Kovac. Saarinen's show, *Collector*, is described as one that "touches on the absurdities of human acquisitiveness"; Kovac's production is called *Mo-ten-don*. Starting tonight, performances run through the 19th, at Suzanne Dellal Center in Neve Tzedek.

This week's International Conference on Recording and the Record at the Jerusalem Music Center may be the last of its kind before conferences about CDs take over the market. Catch the last day of discussions: from 10 a.m. — 1 p.m., three speakers address the topic "Learning History from Records." From 3 p.m., a panel discussion concludes this week of talks. (02) 623-4347.

Tzipi Shavit and Hani Nahmias give an entertainment act this

afternoon at Beit Hahayal, starting at 4:30 p.m. Call (03) 527-6699.

**Jerusalem**

British literature comes to Israel, courtesy of the British Council, in the form of two modern novelists who will be speaking to audiences in a discussion/book-signing event. Chaz Brechley is a modest novelist who writes of himself: "Credibility level, something approaching zero." His books include *Dead of Light* and *Paradise*.

Versatile Gwendyth Jones writes fairy tales and science fiction but is known just as well for her writing on gender roles and critical essays, as in "Deconstructing the Starships." Call (02) 673-6733.

Ben Artzi, still trying to emerge from his dad's giant shadow, won himself some promising praise after his debutant-like appearance at his first concert last week in Tel Aviv. Tonight he's hitting the capital. Yellow Submarine, 13 Harehavim St., in the Talpiot Industrial Zone, starting at 9:30

p.m. Call (02) 656-6611.

But for tried and true (and free!) jazz, hit the jazz jam session at Pargod tonight, at 7 and 10:30 (02) 623-1765.

Anna Weiss, Habimah's wrenching and powerful play, is performed tonight at the Jerusalem Theater, 8:30.

*The Virgin from Ludmir*, the Khan Theater's clearest success of the year, plays at 8:30 tonight at the Khan.

SPNI tours offers "Ruins from the Roman Era," a lecture tour guided by Leonid Poppel. Starts at 11 a.m. Meet at the train station.

**And Points Beyond**

Theater North is showing *Mandragola*, a Habimah production, at 8:30 tonight.

**Television**

*True Romance* (1994), written by Quentin Tarantino, is a perky, quirky and deathly violent film. Starts at 11:35 p.m., on the Movie Channel.



# Weekender Food & Drink

## 'Almost-vegetarian' — and loving it



So you're not totally vegetarian, but not a major carnivore either? You're in tune with the latest trend, and Laura Fraser and Martha Rose Shulman have recipes to help you make the most of it

We are increasingly hearing people say they are not strictly vegetarian — but don't really fit in with the carnivores, either. So what does that make them?

More and more people are cutting back on meat while adding more fruits, vegetables and grains to their daily diets. But unlike those who label themselves "vegetarian," they sometimes still eat — and enjoy — seafood, dairy products, poultry, and even red meat.

We've dubbed people like these "almost-vegetarians" (which sounds better than "occasional carnivores"). And their ranks are growing.

Many AVs who have cut back on red meat more than on any other kind of food point first to health reasons, saying that the less meat they eat, the better they feel. Others are watching their cholesterol and weight; still others are moving away from childhoods in which meat was the star of almost every home meal.

There are other reasons, too. For some it's a choice made out of concern for animals, or the environment.

Are there any downsides to being an almost-vegetarian? One AV says that "the only tricky part has been explaining it to my carnivorous family and friends, because I don't have one specific reason for my choice. And some people can't resist poking a little fun — good-naturedly — at me, trying to find the loopholes in my diet."

But by and large, the positives outweigh the negatives.

"It's amazing to me how many choices I have," says one enthusiastic AV. "I have rediscovered foods like couscous, that I never had when meals almost always consisted of some kind of meat."

To fit in with an almost-vegetarian diet, the following recipes offer a range — from totally meatless to a turkey burger.

### ZUCCHINI-AND-FETA GRATIN

2 1/2 cups hot, cooked long-grain rice  
1 cup crumbled feta cheese, divided  
cooking spray  
4 cups zucchini, sliced 1/2 cm.

thick  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
1 tsp. dried mint flakes  
dash of ground nutmeg  
3 large eggs, lightly beaten

Preheat oven to 190°. Combine rice and 1/2 cup feta cheese in a bowl and then press mixture into a 25 cm. quiche dish or pie plate coated with cooking spray.

Steam zucchini slices, covered, for 5 minutes. Press zucchini gently between paper towels until barely moist. Combine zucchini, remaining feta cheese, salt, and pepper in a medium-sized bowl and arrange mixture evenly over rice.

Combine mint flakes, nutmeg and eggs, stirring well with a whisk. Pour over zucchini mixture. Bake at 190° for 40 minutes. (Serves 8.)

### PASTA E FAGIOLI

Almost any type of bean (such as pinto beans or chickpeas) works in this traditional Italian soup.

1/2 kg. dried navy beans  
1 Tbsp. olive oil

1 cup chopped onion  
1/2 cup sliced carrot  
1/2 cup chopped celery  
4 garlic cloves, crushed, divided  
800-900 gr. can diced tomatoes, undrained  
9 cups water  
1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper  
1 bay leaf  
1 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. oregano  
1/2 tsp. thyme  
1/4 tsp. rosemary  
1/4 cup uncooked medium elbow macaroni  
1 cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley  
1/2 tsp. black pepper  
1/2 cup grated fresh Parmesan cheese

Sort and wash beans and place in a large pot. Cover with water to 5 cm. above beans, bring to a boil, and cook for 2 minutes. Remove beans from heat, cover and let stand for 1 hour. Drain beans in a colander.

Heat oil in pan over medium heat until hot. Add onion, carrot, and celery and sauté 5 minutes or until tender. Add half of garlic and cook 1 minute. Add tomatoes and



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Spring signals the beginning of picnic season. The weather is clear and, an occasional heat wave notwithstanding, far more pleasant than summer for eating outdoors.

Unfortunately, eating outdoors can be dangerous, depending on how you prepare and store the food you eat — and, of course — your choice of food. Here are some tips for making your picnic easier, more pleasant and safer.

For ice, freeze plastic water bottles. Use them as you would use ice packs to keep food chilled. The benefit is that you'll also have a cold drink on hand as the ice melts. (Some people also like to use them as weights for exercising.)

If you don't have a picnic cooler, line a basket or box with a blanket and cover with a large plastic bag. Fill with frozen water bottles or the blue ice packs that are freezeable. Always chill food well before putting it into the cooler.

Always double wrap raw

meat, fish or chicken to make sure juices don't leak and contaminate other foods. If you plan to prepare food on-site, bring along two cutting boards — one for the raw meat and one for everything else. Bacteria from raw meat juices can make you very sick.

Avoid making foods with mayonnaise in the dressing. Use dressings based on olive or other oil instead. Avoid fish or egg salads altogether because they tend to spoil quickly.

Keep the cooler or picnic basket in the car if possible during the trip to the picnic site. The trunk usually gets too hot. When you get there, keep the cooler in the shade and cover it with a blanket to keep it cold.

If you are planning to take a long trip before you get to your picnic site, and are planning to grill at the picnic site, keep the chicken or meat frozen (you also can put it in a freezer container with a marinade) and let it defrost on the way.

You can make portable salt and pepper shakers (or other spice containers) by filling straws with the seasoning and bending or twisting the ends to close.

Bacteria grows very quickly at warm temperatures, so when the picnic's over, throw out smoked meats, potato or pasta salad, and meat or chicken. Although it's

tempting to take home leftovers, they have been sitting around for hours and even when kept in a cooler, it is dangerous to take them home and eat them the next day (or even the same day).

### PICNIC POTATO SALAD

Here's a great salad to take along on picnics. It's so good you'll want to make a double batch and keep half at home.

4 large potatoes  
olive oil  
salt and pepper  
2 cups bean sprouts  
for the dressing:  
1/4 cup oil (mostly olive oil if possible)  
1/2 cup lemon juice  
2 Tbsp. chopped onion  
1/2 cup chopped parsley

Scrub the potatoes but don't peel them. Rub potatoes with a little olive oil, salt and pepper and wrap in aluminum foil. Bake at medium heat (180°C) till tender. Remove, cool to room temperature and cut into large chunks.

Combine potato slices and sprouts and season with salt and pepper.

Prepare the dressing by beating together the oil, lemon juice and onion and then add the parsley. Let sit 10 minutes before pouring on the salad. (Serves 6.)



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

What is chervil, and what is it called in Hebrew? Is it available here and where? Can I use it like parsley? Does it have any redeeming features besides its taste?

— Meredith Marks, Ra'anana

Chervil is a green herb about which a 16th century English herbalist wrote, "It is good for old people — it rejoiceth and comforteth the heart and increaseth their strength."

In France, chervil is popular as a seasoning for salads, soups and fish. It has a delicate anise flavor and is called *anise* in Hebrew even though the name is incorrect. It should be used fresh since cooking destroys its flavor.

Because of its pronounced taste, it is usually used along with parsley and not instead of it. It may sometimes be purchased in the greens section of a souk, but is generally found only at gourmet grocers.

Chervil is considered to be

helpful in relieving eye infections. Steep the chopped leaves in boiling water, cool to body temperature and apply to the eye with an eye cup.

I read your recent warning about insecticides and lettuce. Can you tell me if Gush Katif lettuce is sprayed with insecticide? Do you think it is OK to eat? Can you tell us what vegetables are the safest to consume? Can you tell me where it is possible to buy organic lettuce? Thanks.

— S. Schneer, Jerusalem

The type of Gush Katif lettuce that is advertised as being worm-free is neither grown nor marketed as organic lettuce. It is grown under netting and is treated with pesticides.

The "safety" of vegetables depends on the grower, but it is generally accepted that lettuce, cottonseed oil, fresh herbs and celery are heavily treated with a variety of systemic and non-systemic pesticides. I also try to avoid waxed vegetables and fruits.

Your local health-food store is a good place to look for organic vegetables.

READERS WRITE:  
Jessica Fischer of Michmoret

writes: In reference to strawberry jam (Feedback, April 9), there is a very good and easy recipe for making strawberry jam without the need for pectin in *Microwaves* by Norene Gillett.

Barbara Dershowitz of Jerusalem writes that she buys pectin at a pharmacy.

Melissa Milgram of Tel Aviv responds to the question about brown malt vinegar (Feedback, April 3): I have in the past purchased a Heinz dark malt vinegar at the Superpol chain (probably during the American food festival). I was informed by a representative at Remedial, the sole importer of Heinz products, that this vinegar is not included on the regular import roster along with the other gourmet vinegars.

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted c/o The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem, 91000, or by E-mail: phyllisglazer@jpost.co.il

Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Friday.

bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add beans, 9 cups water, red pepper, and bay leaf and bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer for 1 hour and 50 minutes. Add salt, oregano, thyme, rosemary, and remaining garlic, cover and simmer 25 minutes or until beans are tender. Discard bay leaf.

Place 2 cups bean mixture in a food processor and process until smooth. Return bean puree to pan and stir well. Add pasta; cook 7 minutes or until pasta is done. Remove from heat and stir in parsley and black pepper.

Ladle soup into bowls and sprinkle with cheese. (Serves 8.)

### RIGATONI WITH SUGAR SNAP PEAS AND COTTAGE CHEESE PESTO

1 cup cottage cheese  
2 garlic cloves  
1 cup basil leaves  
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
2 Tbsp. plain yogurt  
1 Tbsp. olive oil  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
3 cups sugar snap peas, trimmed  
4 cups hot, cooked rigatoni

Combine cottage cheese and garlic in a food processor and process until smooth, scraping sides of bowl once. Add basil, Parmesan cheese, yogurt, oil, salt, and pepper; process until finely smooth.

Steam peas, covered, 5 minutes or until crisp-tender. Combine pesto, peas, and pasta in a large bowl; tossing well. (Serves 4.)

### ASIAN-STYLE TURKEY BURGERS

This recipe calls for ground turkey, which includes both light and dark meat. You can trim the fat even more by substituting ground turkey breast, though the burgers will not be quite as flavorful.

450 gr. ground turkey  
1/2 cup finely chopped onion  
3 Tbsp. finely chopped fresh



parsley  
2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce  
2 Tbsp. minced green bell pepper  
1 Tbsp. soy sauce  
1 Tbsp. cold water  
2 tsp. grated peeled fresh ginger  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
cooking spray  
4 hamburger buns

Combine the first 11 ingredients in a large bowl. Divide mixture into 4 equal portions, shaping each into a 2 cm. thick patty.

Place a large nonstick skillet coated with cooking spray over medium-high heat until hot. Add patties and cook 5 minutes on each side or until done. Serve on buns. (Serves 4.)

### TURKISH CHICKPEA STEW

Dried beans, a low-fat, high-protein meat replacement, star in this one-dish meal.

1 Tbsp. olive oil  
1 cup thinly sliced onion

1 tsp. fennel seeds, crushed  
1 tsp. brown sugar  
1/2 tsp. cumin  
4 garlic cloves, crushed  
3 1/2 cups chopped tomato  
1 Tbsp. white wine vinegar  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper  
4 cups trimmed spinach  
4 cups water  
2 450 gr. cans chickpeas, drained  
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley  
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh mint  
2 tsp. chopped fresh dill

Heat olive oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Add onion and sauté 5 minutes.

Add fennel, sugar, cumin, and garlic and cook 1 minute. Stir in tomato, vinegar, salt, and pepper and sauté for 10 minutes or until slightly thick. Stir in spinach, water, and chickpeas and bring to a boil.

Cover, reduce heat, and simmer 30 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in parsley, mint, and dill. (Serves 4.)

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# A capsule of Israelite history at Tel Hatzor

## Weekender Travel

The road between Rosh Pina and Kiryat Shmona, opposite Kibbutz Ayelet Hashahar, slices along the shoulder of high, looming, expansive Tel Hatzor, with only fragments of ancient walls exposed through the grass, thistles and earth. It is a sharp juxtaposition, this modern highway filled with zooming cars and drivers, who are probably unaware of the epic struggle and transition that occurred upon the site they skirt.

The top of Tel Hatzor, which is a national park, has a stunning view to the North, straight up the verdant Hula Valley to Mt. Hermon with its fingers of snow. In ancient times the view was also strategic, enabling the monitoring of all traffic upon this vital trade and military route.

Some 3,500 to 4,000 years ago a large, sophisticated, powerfully fortified Canaanite city-state straddled this junction. It was the largest city in the land; the Book of Joshua calls it "the head of all those kingdoms" in the region.

It was Jabin, king of Hatzor, who organized and led a great alliance of armies from Canaanite tribes and city-states, "even as the sand that is upon the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots (Joshua 11:4)," to stop the Israelites, who had fought their way through Canaan from the desert.

The intruders had no permanent homes, no land, no chariots. But with unstoppable fervor they crashed like a wave against the aligned armies "by the waters of Merom," in northern Canaan, and swept them away.

The Israelites, though ruthless in their treatment of cities during their earlier conquests in the land, left the cities of these allied armies alone, with one exception.

Joshua killed Jabin of Hatzor, and then the victorious Israelites "smote all the souls that were therein with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them: there was not any left to breathe; and he burnt Hatzor with fire."

TODAY, Tel Hatzor, about 800 dunams in area, is the largest archeological site in Israel.

Divided into an upper and lower section, there is still much to be done there.

It is the lower of the two sections, hidden beneath the fields across from Ayelet Hashahar, that holds within it the magnificence of Bronze Age Hatzor.

The parameters of the Bronze Age city are clearly delineated by a long embankment, where protective ramparts rose.

The huge expanse is largely unexcavated. But selective excavation

map and numbered sites will help you find order in the ruins.

DAVID CONQUERED the ruined mound of Hatzor. Solomon recognized and utilized its strategic importance by reconstructing the city and making it one of his three chariot cities, along with Gezer and Megiddo.

Here, we can find the foundation of the same kind of massive triple-chambered gate, once guarded by two towers, that can be found in Megiddo. Solomon built a fortress on the western edge of the tel to guard the road, which passed on that side. After the northern tribes split off from the south to form the Kingdom of Israel,

the powerful King Omri doubled the size of Solomon's city and used at least part of the old city walls for storerooms (which can be seen).

Omri's son Ahab, fearing incursions into his small, strategic but exposed kingdom, executed a masterful engineering project, still visible today, to secure the city's water source, as he also did at Megiddo.

While at Megiddo, Ahab gouged a long tunnel through the bedrock to reach a spring outside the city walls. Here at Hatzor he needed to scoop out a huge hole in the mud of the city and support it adequately with retaining walls.

He then cut a square pier down into the bedrock and carved a slanted, stepped tunnel into an aquifer, 45 meters from the top.

When you climb down there (remember, you'll also have to climb back up), you'll admire the precise and detailed measurements, and the masterful carving along the edge of the stone pier. And the steeper, slanted tunnel (those are the originals, from Ahab's time, that you're stepping on) are clearly wide enough for a continuous, orderly procession of water-gathering.

A wide range of artifacts from Hatzor's 14 excavation areas and 21 levels, as well as a scale model of its upper and lower cities, can be seen in the small antiquities museum at Kibbutz Ayelet Hashahar. If you're visiting the tel, a visit to the museum is worthwhile.

The museum at Ayelet Hashahar is open daily 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Fri. to 3 p.m.; closed Sat. Tel. (06) 693-4855.

Summer hours for Tel Hatzor National Park are: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Friday. There is an entrance fee. Tel. (06) 693-7290.

Allan Rabinowitz is a licensed tour guide.

### Close Encounters

By Allan Rabinowitz

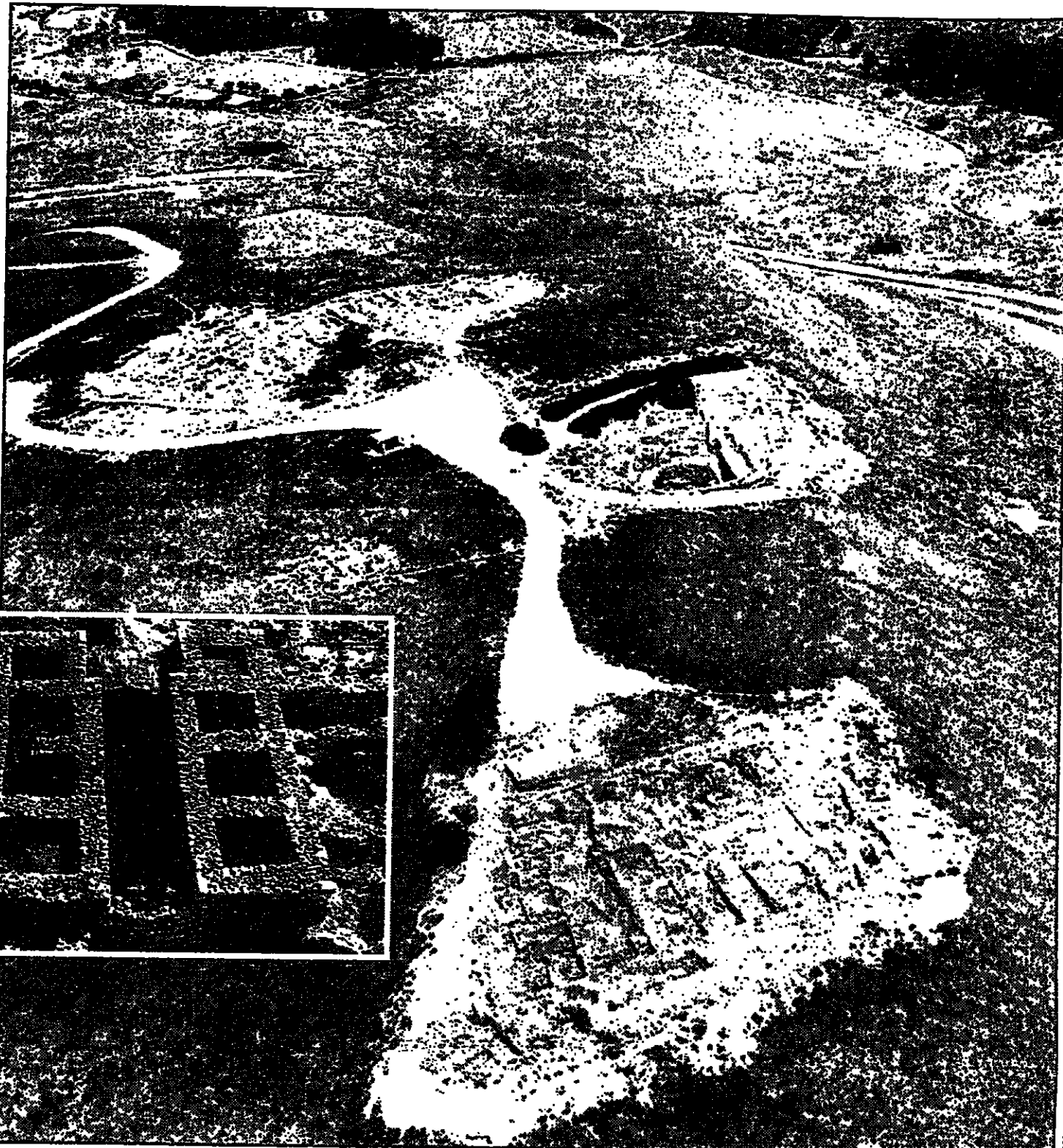
tions in the 1950s by Yigael Yadin suggested dense housing in a city, that according to his estimates, held up to 45,000 people (other estimates are more conservative at 30,000). This would make it 10 to 15 times larger than other contemporary cities.

Tantalizing finds from these probes, dating to the second millennium BCE, reveal a flourishing, sophisticated material culture. Hatzor was firmly anchored on the international trade routes, influenced at various times by both Egypt and Mesopotamia, yet clearly steeped in worship of the local deities and idols which the advancing Israelites would exorcise.

The findings include traces of a magnificent palace; probably multi-storied, with thick layers of ash indicating intense fire (possibly, but not conclusively, ignited by Joshua); the largest Canaanite deity ever found; a number of small bronze golden bulls; a ceremonial sword; the head of a lioness masterfully sculpted in basalt; a bronze plaque of a Canaanite noble or king with his hand raised in blessing, and cuneiform tablets.

The upper city, which is open to the public as part of the national park, reveals ruins that are almost completely from the Israelite age. It is intriguing to realize that Israelite history, from the conquest of Canaan to the destruction by the Assyrians in 733 BCE, is encapsulated here.

A brochure with a self-guiding

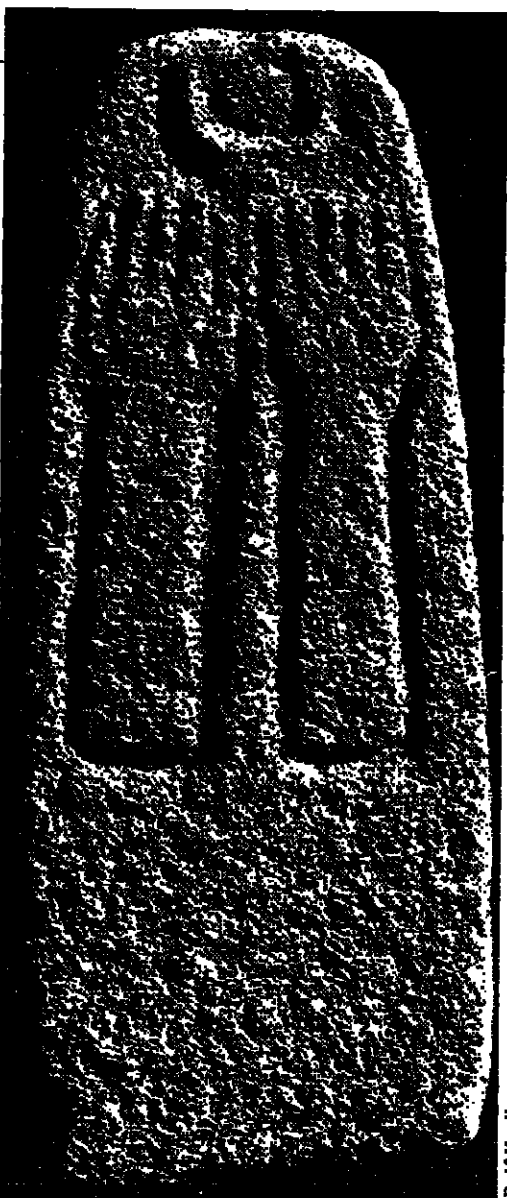


(Above) An aerial view of Tel Hatzor, the largest archeological site in Israel; (Inset) A closer look reveals the remains of a massive city gate from the period of King Solomon; (Below) The stairs leading down to Tel Hatzor's underground water system are the originals, dating back to the time of King Ahab.



Werner Braun

David Rabiner



Some of the wide-ranging artifacts uncovered in Hatzor's 14 excavation areas (clockwise from top): A one-ton basalt sculpture of a lion, from around 15th century BCE; a monument from a Canaanite temple; a sculpture of a Canaanite god.

### Day Tripper

By Haim Shapiro

## Where 'he walked upon the water'

If it had not been for the Syrians, Bethsaida might still be the great mystery site of the New Testament.

That at least was the view of Father Bargil Pixner. He recounted that in the 1930s, the eminent archeologist William Albright visited the tel now recognized to be Bethsaida and said that it could not possibly have been a Hellenistic and Roman settlement.

That was before the Syrians occupied the hillside following the War of Independence and used it as a fortification, with trenches and bunkers.

Pixner recalled climbing through those same trenches after the Six Day War and picking up bits of Hellenistic and Roman remnants.

One of the items he found, Pixner said recently when the site was officially opened to visitors, was a potsherd with a cross - an indication that the site was sacred to early Christians. He became more convinced than ever that this was the site of Bethsaida.

It was here that three of Jesus's disciples were born and where some of the major miracles of the New Testament are said to have occurred, such as the feeding of the multitudes and the healing of a blind man. And it was from Bethsaida's shores that Jesus was

seen "walking on the Sea of Galilee."

Now, after 11 years of excavations under the direction of Dr. Rami Arav on behalf of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the experts appear to have little doubt that this was the place, despite the fact that Bethsaida was described as a fishing port on Lake Kinneret and the tel is two kilometers from the sea.

Apparently, the experts say, a massive earthquake in the second century CE caused a landslide which not only covered the town but also moved the shoreline. Bethsaida was abandoned and forgotten.

A minimalist approach has been used in its reconstruction.

There is a short section of road from the Roman period. It is considered especially important for the thousands of Christian pilgrims expected to visit during the year 2000, since Jesus and his disciples could well have walked on this very road.

One house is known as the wine merchant's house, since the archeologists found four wine jars in a wine cellar behind the kitchen. Another house is known as the fisherman's house, as the experts uncovered fishing gear there. Both are important for the Christian visitors, since they relate to New Testament miracles, as well as to the fact that many of

Jesus's disciples were fishermen.

For visitors, there is a meditation area and an observation point, which includes arrows pointing to other New Testament sites.

We should remember, however, that while the town is associated with Jesus, it existed much earlier, during the period of the Judean Kingdom.

From that period, there is a magnificent gateway, which Arav described as the largest in the area. He also suggested that this was where Absalom fled from the wrath of his father, King David.

There are still no signs directing the visitor to the gateway. To find it, you should stand at the observation point with your back to Lake Kinneret. Just over a small rise, you can see a large eucalyptus tree. Taking care not to fall into or trample on the excavations, go over the hill to the tree and you will find the gateway beside it, complete with a monumental, engraved pillar (stela) and a stone basin.

Another stela found at the site is currently on display at the Israel Museum.

To get to Bethsaida, go northward along Lake Kinneret, either from Tiberias or along the eastern shore. When you get to the Jordan Park, go into the entrance and turn off immediately on the dirt road to your left.



# Weekender Leisure

## Ambient light, camera, action!

### On Camera By David Brauner

Albert Einstein called photographers "light monkeys." Little wonder. After all, while the great physicist devoted much thought to light and its behavior, inconsiderate photographers were throwing flashed light in his face at every opportunity.

Photographers who supplement every picture they take with a burst of flash are robbing their pictures of individuality. Yes, with today's sophisticated flashguns, every image comes out sharp, bright, perfectly exposed... and dull. Ambient or available light photography is fast becoming a lost art. The average photographer has forgotten that it is perfectly possible to take a good picture and, often, a better picture, with whatever free light happens to be available.

The first advantage of leaving

the flash in your gadget bag or turning it off (if it is an integral part of your camera and can be turned off), is a reduction in the "intimidation factor." Your subjects will feel more natural and relaxed. Consequently, your pictures will look more natural and relaxed.

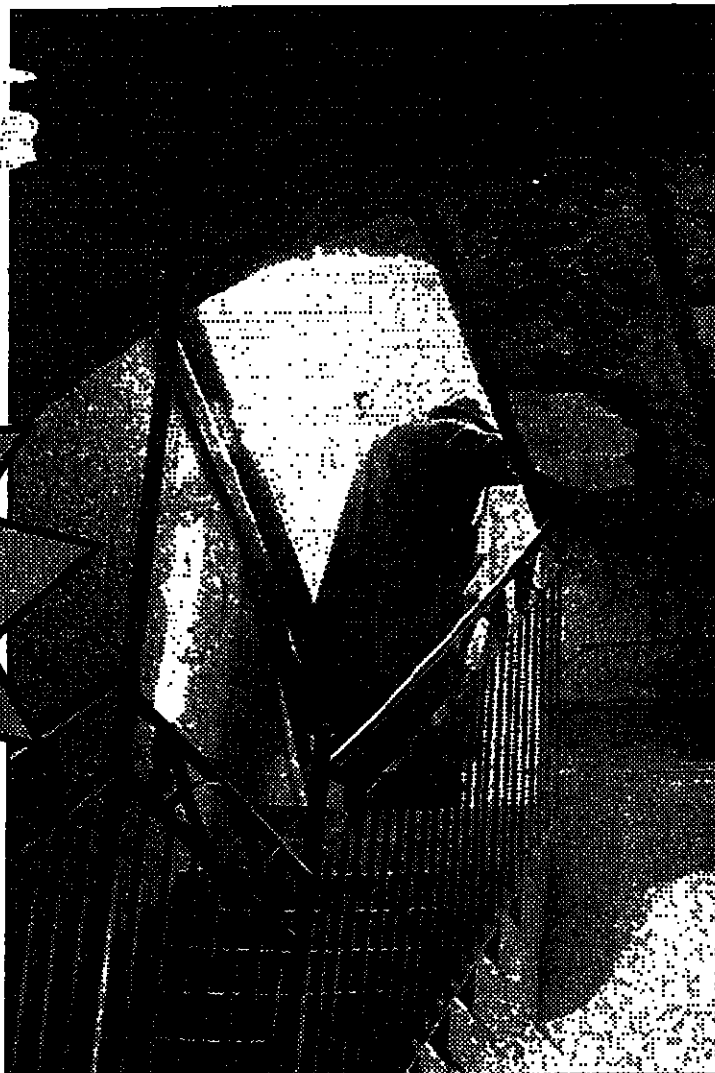
Photographer David Finn, author of *How to Look at Photographs* (Abrams), recounts a session he spent with the late Rabbi Louis Finkelstein, head of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. "I took roll after roll of photographs of him as we sat talking in his modest apartment. To make it as informal as possible, I had not brought lights with me, relying instead on whatever light was available."

The soft-lit picture of Finkelstein in deep reflection with his hand over his face is set off against a blurred background of religious books. Had Finn used lighting, the face would have worn an out-of-sync harshness, and the books would have been sharp and dis-

tracting. With artificial light the profound mood of concentration would have been lost.

Arnold Newman's portrait of the American primitive painter, Grandma Moses, is a great natural light photograph that comes to mind. The sunlight streams through frilly curtains from three sides on the face of the old woman sitting in her rocking chair. A fern bush and teapot in the foreground are silhouetted against the light, the polished wooden floor blurs the shadows and whole image is slightly less than pin sharp, giving it a fitting antique quality.

By relying on whatever light is available - whether it is a tungsten bulb, fluorescent tube, an open fire, oil lamp, computer screen, neon sign, sunlight through a window, or even a candle or match - the photographer is taking a chance that the picture will not work for technical or aesthetic reasons. But by taking a chance on ambient light, the photographer is also accepting a challenge. No two pic-



Play of free light from above and below on an old man in the Mahaneh Yehuda neighborhood of Jerusalem (Photos: David Brauner)

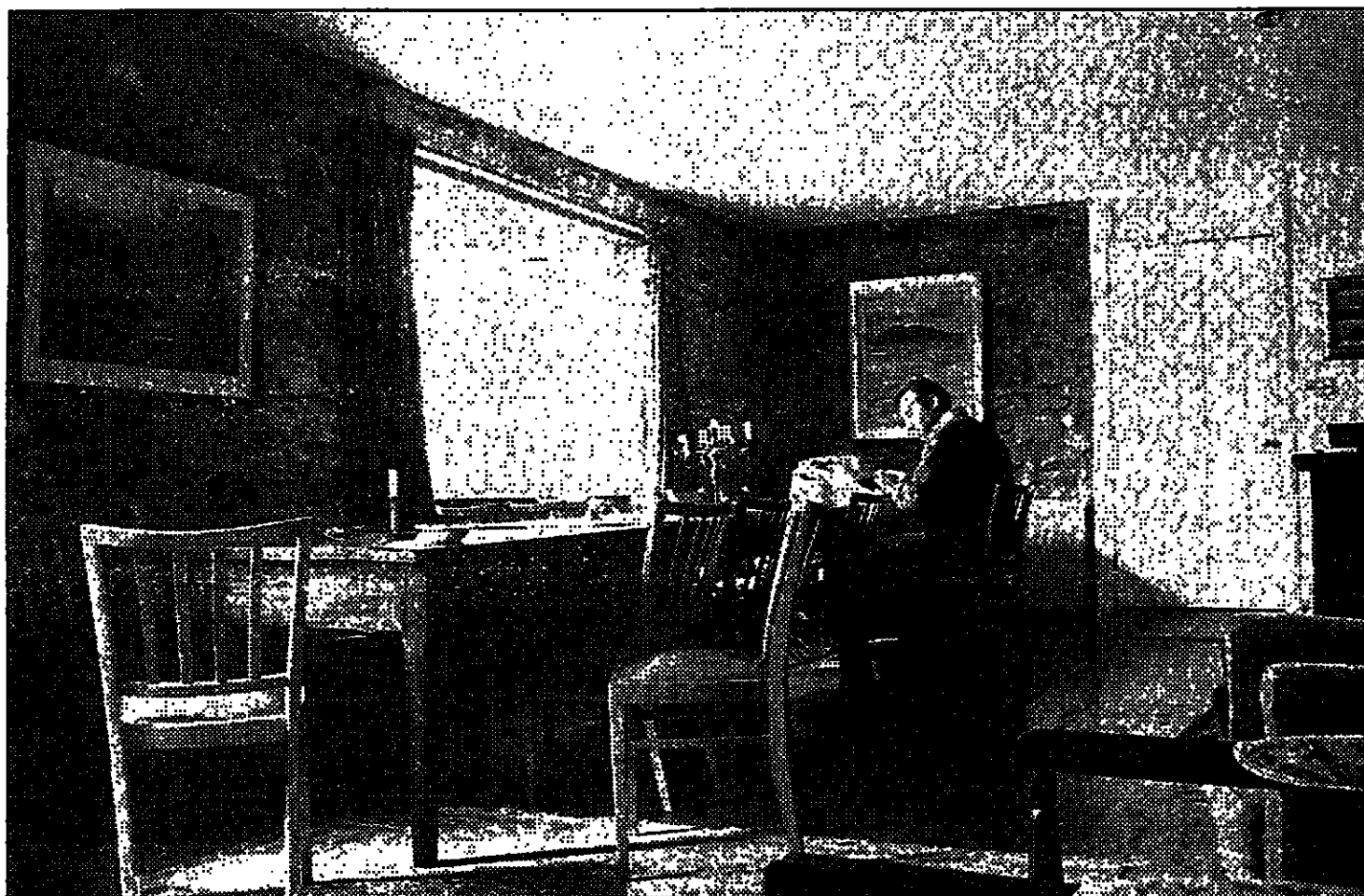
tures will ever be alike, because available light is never the same. Every situation will be different. The quality of the light itself becomes a key element in the image. Because the light is usually directional, it has a modeling effect that can outline a subject in a golden halo or divide a face in two: Half light, half shadow. Often the source of the light, a naked bulb or single flame, features as an important highlight in the composition.

Without getting too scientific about the physics of light intensity, the further your subject is from the source of the light, the weaker the light falling on the subject becomes. So, in poor light situations, take care to place the light nearer to the subject or the subject nearer to the light, if possible. For color, it is important to remember light itself displays color, often not seen by the human eye.

For instance, tungsten lighting is orange while fluorescent can be blue. Ordinary (daylight) color film is "balanced" for midday sunlight, to render colors most accurately when the light itself is "colorless." Daylight film will show a "color cast" if used in an available light situation without a correction filter or, dare I say it, flash to override the ambient conditions.

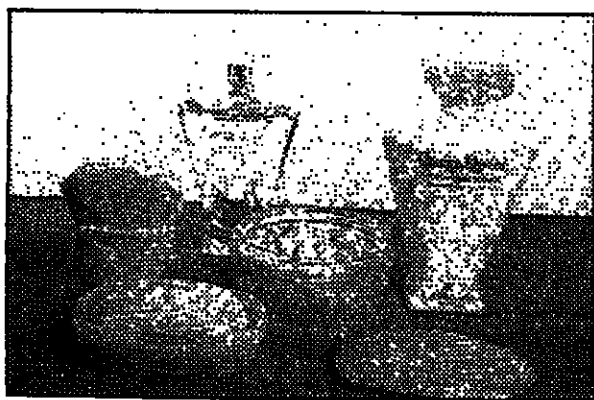
Another factor to bear in mind is that light travels through the glass of your camera's lens at about two-thirds of the speed it travels through air. Therefore, the light you see takes longer than you might think to reach the film through the lens. So it is imperative to use a light-sensitive film rated at 400 ASA/ISO or faster. You can also uprate 400 ASA film to 800 (one stop) or even 1600 (two stops) in order increase depth of field, shutter speed or both. If you uprate, then you have to "push" process the film accordingly: 33 percent longer development time for one stop, and 83% longer for two stops. The price for low light and extra speed is graininess and loss of shadow detail. But the cost is worth it. Guaranteed!

Your photography questions and comments are welcome. Contact David Brauner, e-mail: [morris@mail.biu.ac.il](mailto:morris@mail.biu.ac.il) (writing "for David" in the subject line) or fax 02-563-7792 or do Photo Archives, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000.



Classic ambience created by the natural light coming in through the window of a Scottish crofter's house

## The heat is on



Guerlain's Champs-Elysees perfumed Radiant Body Lotion exudes a stronger fragrance than the same brand of eau de toilette and the scent lasts longer because it is massaged into the pores of the skin.

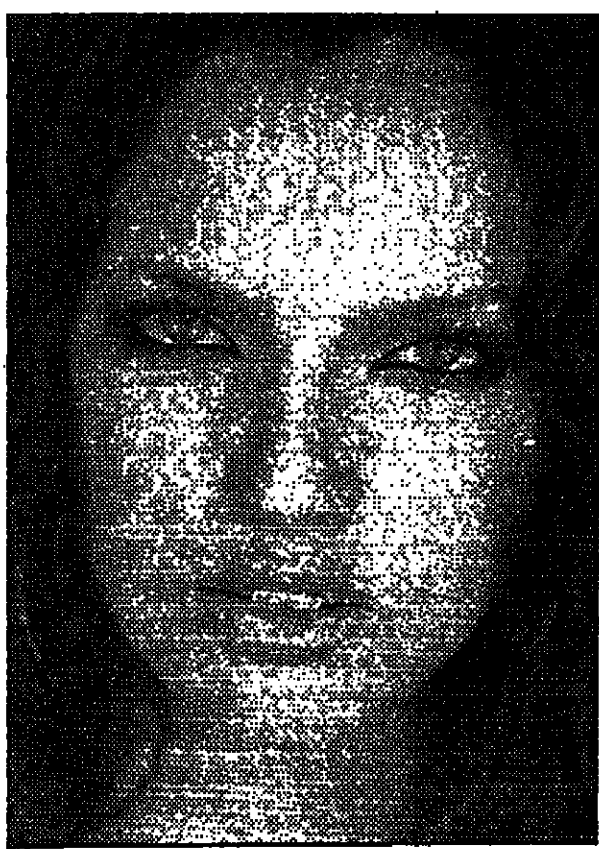
Cosmetics manufacturers are aiming for the natural look this summer as they take the heavy drama out of foundation creams, eye shadows, blushers and lipsticks.

Yves Saint Laurent has introduced transparent lipsticks, blushers and eye shadows in many colors and shades. Textures are creamy, leaving just a hint of bloom on cheeks and lips, and a faint glow around the eyes. The end result looks much less artificial than the usual war-paint job.

Il-Makage has come out with a sheer, water-based liquid makeup foundation with sunscreen protection against UV rays. Even without a sponge applicator, it blends easily into the skin and enhances the tone. But Il-Makage's Heylighter Dust, an eye shadow that can be used dry or wet to give glowing effects, should be repackaged, because it is messy in its present form, and much of its contents go to waste.

Soft Touch Quick Liner is a joy for anyone who has problems achieving that fine line on the edge of the lid. Neither too creamy nor too liquid, it has a better consistency than most other brands and a thinner wand which makes it easier to apply accurately.

Guerlain's Perfect Light Fluid Foundation is somewhat of a disappointment for a company that is generally known for



TV personality Noa Tishbi done up in Il-Makage water-based liquid makeup with sunscreen, and Heylighter Dust eye shadow

### Flair

By Greer Fay Cashman



Wet without sweat: Schwartz Wet Look styling cream and conditioner, boosted by olive oil and myrtle extract, gives hair a better sheen than perspiration, and certainly smells better.

its high-quality products. It doesn't feel smooth to the touch, and it takes too long to set. Initially, it looks like stage makeup, which can be quite frightening to anyone looking in a mirror immediately after application, but once it sets, the color changes and it looks perfectly natural.

Guerlain's Champs-Elysees perfumed Radiant Body Lotion, on the other hand, gets top marks. It actually exudes a stronger fragrance than the same brand of eau de toilette, and the scent lasts longer because it is massaged into the pores of the skin. It both feels good and smells good.

Also smelling good is Homme de Gres, the new, fresh and slightly aromatic fragrance for men from the famous Paris-based perfume house. Invigorating without being overpowering, it suggests good breeding, and is definitely manly, unlike some of the new unisex fragrances on the market.

In this merciless heat, achieving the wet look with hair is no big deal, since perspiration does just that. But Schwartz Wet Look styling cream and conditioner, boosted by olive oil and myrtle extract, gives hair a better sheen than perspiration, and certainly smells better. It can be used on either dry or damp hair.

## Bridge Breaking the rules

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer  
Both sides vulnerable

North	East
♠ Q 10 8 4	♠ K 7 5 3
♥ K 9 7	♥ 6 5 3 2
♦ A 10 2	♦ 7 5 4
♣ K 7 4	♣ 6 3

West	East
♠ 6 2	♠ K 7 5 3
♥ 10 8 4	♥ 6 5 3 2
♦ J 8 6 3	♦ 7 5 4
♣ Q 10 9 5	♣ 6 3

South	West	North	East
♠ A J 9	pass	3 ♠	pass
♥ A Q J	pass	4 NT	pass
♦ K Q 9	(all pass)		
♣ A J 8 2			

Opening lead: ♠6

No game other than bridge is more suited to the cliché "Rules were meant to be broken." A new book, *Focus on Defense* (Master Point Press, Toronto), written by Danny Roth of London, England, is excellent for learning when and how to break the rules we were taught as beginners.

Today's deal, from the book, is a perfect example. We all know the rules of thumb, "second-hand low, third-hand high." These refer to the defenders' play. When following suit, it's usually wise to play low if you are the second player to play to the trick and high if you're in third position.

However, these rules are only a guideline; you have to think at bridge and study the positions to know when to break the rules. Here is what author Roth has to say about it: "Mistakes in this area can often be avoided if you consider the basic reason for playing third-hand high. Usually, you will be hoping to win the trick outright or to knock out a high card from declarer in order to promote a trick for the defenders. If it is clear that neither applies, then it may well be wrong to dive in head first."

"Strangely, while I was in the process of writing this chapter, I watched two hands come up, within a quarter-of-an-hour of each other, where West had to sit helplessly as his partner cruelly swung the axe."

Roth now discusses the hand in today's diagram. I have added to it by supplying a bidding sequence. South opens two notrump, showing 20-to-22 points and North bids three clubs, Stayman, asking for a four-card major.

When South denies a major with his bid of three diamonds, North invites a slam by jumping to four notrump. Notice that four notrump is not Blackwood here, because there hasn't been a trump suit agreed upon. South, with a maximum point count for his opening two notrump, accepts the slam invitation by bidding six notrump.

West, not wanting to give South any help on the opening lead, carefully selects the six of spades for his lead. Spades is the one suit, from West's point of view, that is least likely to hurt the defense. On the six of spades, declarer calls for dummy's 4. If you are sitting East, which card do you play, and would it make any difference if declarer had called for the queen of spades?

Roth answers: "This is the kind of situation where parrot rules lay out the surest route to disaster. What is the spade situation? Clearly, South has the ace of spades - who is underleading an ace against a slam when sitting over a two-notrump opener? Once you have established this, you are well on the way to finding the correct defense."

If South has four spades, your king is dead, regardless of your defense. (In this case, South has denied four spades.) If he has fewer, the ace will drop in three rounds while your king remains intact so that declarer will make three rather than four spade tricks - all the difference in the world."

Declarer makes only 11 tricks if East plays low to the first trick. Still, it may not be easy for East to visualize the position. A good idea is for East to assume that his partner has led passively against a slam contract; now he can visualize South's strong holding.

Another rule of thumb that would be wise for East to break is, "Cover an honor with an honor." Suppose West had led a heart on opening lead and declarer started the spade suit himself by leading the queen of spades from dummy. Again it would be right for East to play low (rather than: cover the honor). East must think: he cannot play by rules alone.

Readers may contact Matthew Granovetter by email at [gran@netvision.net.il](mailto:gran@netvision.net.il).

## Chess The Indian open

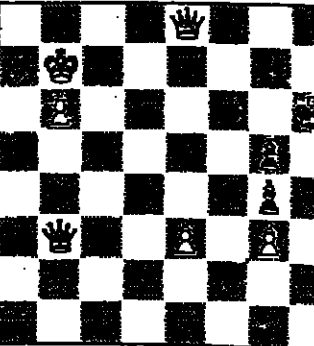
By NIGEL SHORT

I have always wanted to visit India, for where else does one get the chance to drive the wrong way down one-way streets with a police escort? Life is thrilling certainly, but what fun! This might also describe my feelings about open tournaments, which could explain why Calcutta is my first open tournament in about 10 years.

Open tournaments require a different discipline to the closed events where players are more evenly matched. Instead of striving to equalize with the black pieces, it is necessary to take a few risks in order to win, as only the high-scorers receive a worthwhile prize.

The first few rounds witnessed quite a number of upsets - Calcutta's very own grand master Barua succumbed in the first round to Vijayalakshmi, the top Indian woman. His suffering continued when, in the third round, he reached the following position against the wonderfully named but lowly-ranked Harikrishna.

Black: (Harikrishna) to play



White: (Barua)

Harikrishna played 1. ...Qf7+ and a draw was agreed because after 2. Qx7 Black is stalemated - a nice trick to remember.

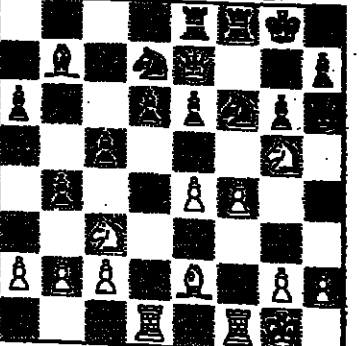
Another lowly ranked Indian, Neelakantan, produced a major upset in the second round against the Hungarian grand master Horvath.

1. e4 g5 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nc3 d6 4. Be3 a6. Once upon a time such an opening would have been dismissed as complete nonsense. Black has neglected to establish a foothold in the center and, instead

of developing his pieces, makes abstract pawn moves on the wing. However, it is not at all without point: by preserving his flexibility Black intends to snipe at the White center from the flanks. 5. Qd2 b5 6. B3 Nd7 7. Nf3. A mysterious move which I can only explain by saying that White probably is not a terribly strong player. After 7. h4 b5 then 8. Nf3 makes a lot of sense as the knight will secure the g5 outpost. Doubtless White got confused here. 7. ...Bb7 8. Be2 e5 9. d5 Ng6 10. Bh6 0-0 11. 0-0 Bxh6 12. Qxh6 e6. So far, so good. Black has unbalanced the position and apart from a slightly vulnerable king, stands rather well. 13. dxe6 fxe6 14. Rad1 Qe7 15. Ng5 Rae8 16. f4?!

Objectively this move is completely unsound but when you are massively outranked by your opponent it pays to be optimistic. 16. ...b4. Oops! Now the e-pawn is hanging.

Black: (Horvath)



White: (Neelakantan) to play

17. Bc4. In for a penny, in for a pound. 17. ...bxc3 18. Bxe6+ Kh8 19. e5 Bxe5 20. dxe5 Rd8?? It is very hard to explain why Horvath failed to play the completely obvious 20. ...Nxe5. After the subsequent 21. Rd1 Qc7 Black is just winning. Now he is crushed in style. 21. Bxd7 Nxd7 22. Rxf8+ Nxf8 23. Nf7+! If 23. Rxd8? Qxd8 24. Nf7+ Kg8 25. Nxd8 cxb2 and Black wins. 23. ...Qx7? Utterly confused, Black makes his last chance. After 23. ...Kg8 24. Nxd8 cxb2 the game continues. 24. Rxd8 Kg8 25. e6! Qe7 26. Qxf8+! Doubtless overlooked by Black 26. ...Qxf8 27. e7! Black resigned.

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05/14/98

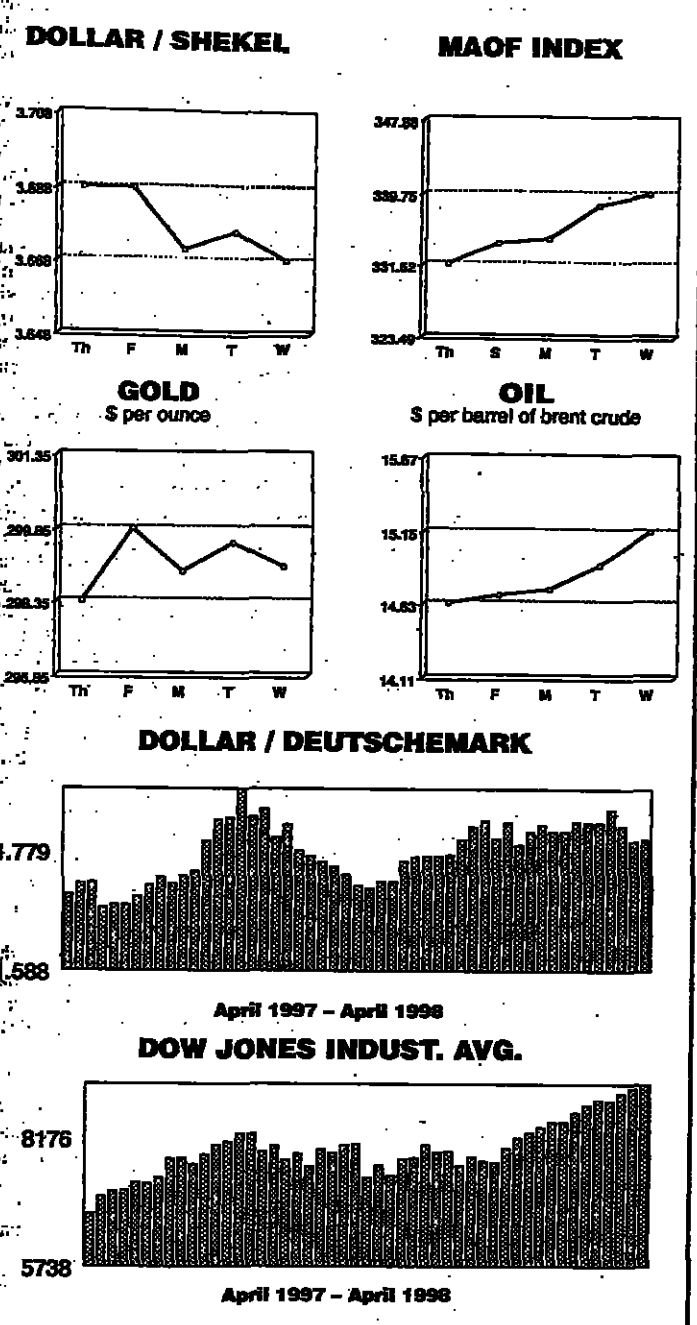
# BUSINESS & FINANCE

15

Thursday,  
May 14, 1998

## MARKETS

in brief



## Eisenberg, DSW, China in \$450 million venture

**By DAN GERSTENFELD**

Dead Sea Works and the Eisenberg Group of Companies have finalized an agreement with the Chinese authorities to construct a potash plant in China at an estimated investment of \$450 million.

The new plant, which will be constructed in Golmud in the Qighai region, will be jointly held by the two companies and the Chinese government, which will own two-thirds of the joint venture.

Dead Sea Works is a subsidiary of Israel Chemicals, which is controlled by the Eisenberg Group through the Israel

Corporation. The negotiations on the agreement originally involved the late business tycoon Shaul Eisenberg, who built 280 factories in China.

According to the agreement, Dead Sea Works will be responsible for the technology transfer, the construction and the start-up of the plant.

The plant is to employ 1,400 workers and to have an annual production capacity of 800,000 tons. A Dead Sea Works spokesman said that the output is earmarked for the local market and will not compete with Dead Sea Works products. According to estimates, the Chinese import three million tons of potash a

year.

Last month Dead Sea Works announced investments of \$90m. to expand its potash manufacturing capacity to 2.75 million tons a year in order to enter new markets abroad.

Shaul Ben-Zeev, the company's president and CEO, said that the agreement is a significant breakthrough in the international operations of the company as it enters one of the most important and developing markets.

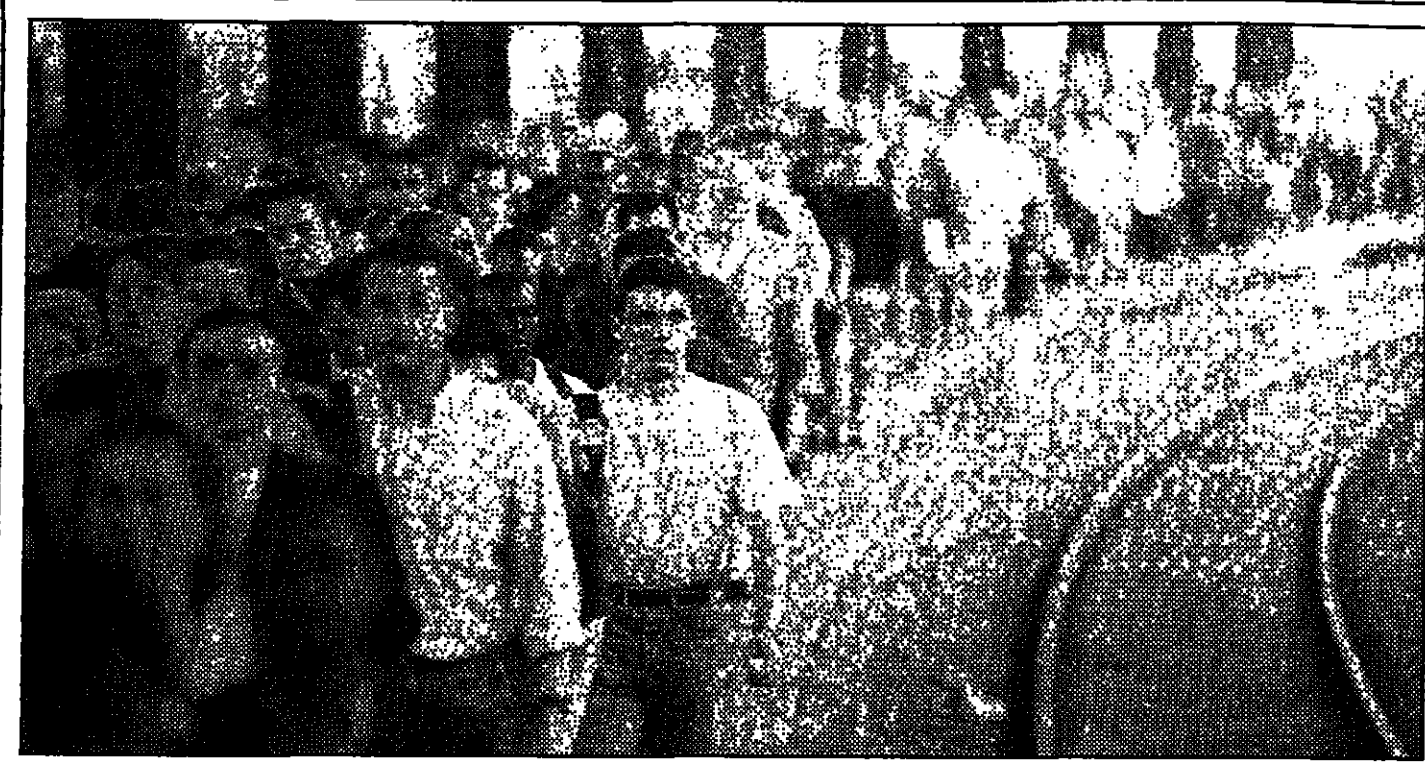
Israel Corp. CEO Erwin Eisenberg said that potash consumption in China has increased in past years as it is used to fertilize arable agricultural land. He added that the Chinese authorities have been seeking a joint venture

that would ensure the supply of potash to the agricultural sector in coming years.

Dead Sea Works said that the negotiations accelerated during the last few months after the parties agreed to update the feasibility study of the joint venture.

According to Eisenberg, after conducting an international survey the Chinese found the Israeli technology preferable to all other alternatives.

The memorandum of understanding has been signed by Woo Goh Tai, senior executive of the Chinese Ministry of Mining, and the chairman of Mingda, the local partner in the joint venture.



**The trains don't run on time**  
French commuters crowd a railway platform in Paris to catch a train as long delays were reported following a general strike by employees of the French national railroad. (AP)

## Discount Invest. buys 21% of Tambour for \$31m.

**By DAN GERSTENFELD**

Discount Investments yesterday announced that it has exercised an option to buy 20.7 percent of Tambour, Israel's leading paint manufacturer, from a subsidiary of Mashav Initiating & Development for \$31 million.

Discount, together with affiliate PEC Israel Economic Corporation, now holds 85.35% of Tambour. The remaining shares are traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Discount CEO Dov Tadmor said that the company plans to sell part of its holdings in Tambour to an international company in the paint industry.

The deal was announced only one day after Tambour published disappointing first-quarter results. Analysts said the transaction stands in clear contrast to Discount's strategy of focussing on companies with high growth potential that are mainly in the fields of communications, infrastructure and financial services.

"I don't understand how it sits alongside Discount's strategy," said Shai Weinberg, an analyst at Solid Capital Markets. "There is nothing interesting in raising holdings in the low-tech sector at a time when everybody else is trying to get out."

He added that Tambour operates in a very competitive sector in which companies don't generate high returns. Prices in the sector have been falling since the market was opened to imported goods, causing Tambour's profitability to decline. In addition, the whole sector was hit by a slow down in the building industry.

The latest evidence of Tambour's falling profitability came on Tuesday, when the company reported that first-quarter net profit fell 50% to NIS 2.7 million from NIS 5.5m. a year earlier.

Tadmor said, however, that the company views the investment in Tambour as a long-term investment.

"Tambour has an important role in the Israeli industry and I believe that we can bring in top-quality strategic partners," Tadmor said. "Our main line continues to be high growth."

The purchase, which was done through a subsidiary of Discount, is an outcome of an agreement between Israel's largest holding companies, Koor Industries and Clal Israel. The two conglomerates agreed last April to end their joint control of Mashav. Under the terms of that agreement, Koor raised its stake in ECI Telecom by 10% in return for an option to sell 25% of Mashav to Clal. Koor and Clal said at the time that Mashav would sell some of its holdings, including Tambour.

According to press reports, Poalim Investments also had been interested in buying Mashav's holdings in Tambour for the same price.

Mashav announced that following the sale of the paint maker it will write a capital gain of NIS 22m.

## Zilberfarb denies opposing central bank's policy

**By DAVID HARRIS**

During a meeting of the Knesset Finance Committee, it became apparent that Treasury Director-General Ben-Zion Zilberfarb is unhappy with the Bank of Israel's monetary policy. MKs Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz), Avraham Shohat (Labor), and Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) said yesterday.

Following the meeting, Zilberfarb vigorously denied this and said the central bank is on the right track in reducing interest rates.

The disagreement began when Shohat produced a letter from Zilberfarb criticizing central bank policy. The letter, sent to Shohat when Zilberfarb was a university professor in July 1996, accuses the central bank of implementing "incorrect monetary policies since 1995."

Zilberfarb reportedly told the committee: "I could write things when I was in academia that I can't say now."

Shohat told reporters that Zilberfarb said that "it is impossible to keep the real interest rate at 7 percent, at that rate it is difficult for the economy to grow."

Following the meeting, Zilberfarb claimed he did not criticize the bank's current policies. "The path that the central bank has adopted in recent months is correct and must continue," said Zilberfarb. "In this period of reducing inflation and inflationary expectations, there must be a gradual reduction of interest rates." This he said must apply to both nominal and real-term rates.

The exchanges took place just 12 hours after the cabinet approved the ministry's NIS 1 billion proposal to reduce unemployment by investing

in infrastructure projects.

State Budget Director David Milgrom hit out at ministers who said the program will lead to increased unemployment. "You increase infrastructure spending by NIS 1b. and people claim this will mean more unemployment - this is ridiculous," he said.

There was cross-party criticism of the Treasury package. Michael Kleiner, coalition leader on the committee, described the plan as "insufficient. They're taking money to fund the program from the wrong places and let's face it, the jobs being created aren't exactly for Jews."

Committee chairman Ravitz added: "As opposed to what I heard from [Finance Minister Yaakov] Neeman, this program won't necessarily bring down unemployment and certainly not in large numbers."

## Israel, Slovenia ink free trade deal

**By NINA GILBERT**

Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky and Slovenian Economics and Foreign Trade Minister Marjan Senjur yesterday signed a free trade agreement between their countries in Jerusalem, after two years of negotiations.

Israel has already signed free trade agreements with other central and eastern European countries, including Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. It is also negotiating an accord with Romania.

These countries and Slovenia have association agreements with the European Union which resulted in discrimination against Israeli goods.

The free trade agreements eliminate this discrimination, thus providing a potential boost for Israeli products to compete in eastern European markets.

For its part, Slovenia is seeking Israeli investments, technology and joint ventures in areas in which Israel has a comparative advantage, including telecommunications, agro-chemicals and medical equipment.

Under the agreement, most products will immediately enjoy a full exemption from tariffs.

In 1997, bilateral trade between Israel and Slovenia was \$77 million, with Israeli exports totaling \$70 million, mainly electrical appliances and electronics, machinery, telecommunications products and agro-chemicals.

## Clal Ind. buys 11% of Fundtech for NIS 68m.

**By Jerusalem Post Staff**

Clal Industries and Investments announced yesterday that it has signed an agreement to purchase 10.7 percent of software developer Fundtech for NIS 68 million.

In a statement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Clal said 4.2% of Fundtech was bought from Primavera Investments for NIS 27m. and the sale of another 6.5% for NIS 41m. would be completed in the coming days.

Ramat Gan-based Fundtech designs and develops software products to electronically process payments, transfer funds and manage cash transfers. Two months ago the company raised \$39m. through an initial public offering on Nasdaq.

The recent deal is in line with Clal's strategy of focusing on high-tech companies with high growth potential while selling its stakes in unprofitable companies.

Clal Industries, a subsidiary of Clal Israel, the country's second-largest conglomerate, has been working to change its image from a conservative holding company to a more dynamic technology-oriented firm since Rimmon Ben-Shaoul was appointed its president and CEO last year.

Last month Clal acquired 9.3% of the Israeli manufacturer of paging networks, Nexus Telecommunications Systems, for NIS 22m.

Last month the company completed the sale of a 51% stake in Zion United Cable Works to Superior Telecom for NIS 90m.

**Currency liberalization takes effect today**

The regulations controlling currency exchange are officially relaxed from today, leaving only a couple of restrictions in place. The Treasury and Bank of Israel still have to finalize the measures concerning foreigners' futures contracts and some restrictions remain on domestic institutional investors' ability to invest overseas.

*David Harris*

**Polgat signs on to Jordanian joint venture**

Textile manufacturer Polgat announced yesterday that its subsidiary Bagir signed an agreement with Jordan's Century Investment Group to set up a jointly owned factory in Jordan at an investment of \$5.5m. The sewing and finishing plant is to export its products mainly to the US.

*Dan Gerstenfeld*

**Visa to distribute points to businesses**

I.C.C. Visa, Israel's largest credit card supplier, is getting ready for rising competition as Alpha Card, which also will offer Visa credit cards, is getting ready to start operating soon. The company yesterday announced a new marketing program, in which each business will get points according to the number of deals cleared through Visa.

The company said that rising competition is expected to lead to only a small decrease in its market share.

*Dan Gerstenfeld*

**book**

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**Ministry of National Infrastructures Fuel Authority**

Tender No. FA - 1/1998

Purchase, Storage and Finance of Crude Oil Strategic Inventories for the State of Israel

Correction of Tender Notice published on 5.3.98

The Tender Committee has decided to introduce changes into the Tender documents. The revised documents shall be available at the Fuel Authority Office (216 Jaffa St., Jerusalem) from 14.6.98.

The final date for submission of proposals has been extended to 13.7.98, 16:00

Yoav Armoni  
Head of Fuel Authority

**FLAMES OF REVOLT**

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**Reading between the lines...**

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## Tel Aviv

That has prompted speculation that a number of investors could seek to buy the stake and gain control of Israel Chemicals, because it is unclear whether Israel Corp., which now controls the company

## Asia

The Nikkei Quick flash accelerated buying of Real estate companies tumbled after a private think tank said condominium sales in

## STOCKS

dropped 14.1% as would-be buyers were dissuaded by concerns about wages and jobs, the Real Estate Economic Research Institute said.

## Europe

But blue chip shares in Frankfurt and Paris still managed gains of

## Wall Street

Bundesbank council member Olaf Sievert said the DAX's gains were little cause for concern.

million shares as of 4 p.m., vs. 600.91 million in the previous session.

## Yen little changed amid concern Japan to sell dollars

"All the trouble going on in Asia — the riots in Indonesia, markets falling, and swings in interest rates" are driving investors to the "safe haven" of the dollar, said Robert Katz, a currency trader at MTB Bank.

## CURRENCIES

Indonesia's economy edged closer to collapse, with the rupiah

Asian currencies and securities prices hurt the yen because Japan is Asia's biggest creditor, and needs to be repaid those loans to help its own struggling economy. "With the rest of Asia in crisis,

region is putting pressure on the yen and other currencies there," said Mark Turner, chief investment officer at Schooner Asset Management at Schooner Asset Management Co. in Boston. (Bloomberg)

## Silver prices fall after US declares India sanctions

## Precious metals

uawug.

## Energy

## US bonds rise

## COMMODITIES

e for second

## Others

straight day

## US bonds rise for second straight day

## BONDS

note sale. Bonds Tuesday gained after the Treasury met ample

raised its target for overnight lending between commercial banks in March 1997, by 25

four months of the year, producer prices fell at a 2.5% annual rate. (Bloomberg)

## ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

[illegible]

Currency basket	3.8976	3.9606	—	—	3.9236
U.S. dollar	3.6441	3.7029	3.58	3.76	3.6680
German mark	2.0441	2.0771	2.00	2.11	2.0568
Pound sterling	5.9608	6.0570	5.85	6.15	5.9890
French franc	0.6087	0.6196	0.59	0.63	0.6140
Japanese yen (100)	2.7160	2.7589	2.68	2.80	2.7338
Dutch florin	1.8144	1.8437	1.78	1.87	1.8270
Swiss franc	2.4543	2.4939	2.41	2.53	2.4719
Swedish krona	0.4754	0.4831	0.48	0.49	0.4785
Norwegian krona	0.4878	0.4867	0.47	0.51	0.4913
Danish krone	0.5368	0.5456	0.52	0.56	0.5405
Finnish mark	0.6727	0.6838	0.66	0.70	0.6775
Canadian dollar	2.5386	2.5796	2.49	2.62	2.5549
Australian dollar	2.2919	2.3289	2.25	2.37	2.3000
S. African rand	0.7175	0.7291	0.67	0.73	0.7228
Belgian franc (10)	0.9910	1.0070	0.97	1.03	0.9878
Austrian schilling (10)	2.5052	2.9521	2.85	3.00	2.9259
Italian lira (1000)	2.0735	2.1070	2.03	2.14	2.0876
Jordanian dinar	5.1217	5.2044	5.05	5.40	5.1902
Egyptian pound	1.0300	1.1200	1.03	1.12	1.1167
ECU	4.0287	4.0987	—	—	4.0583
Irish punt	5.1495	5.2326	5.06	5.31	5.1829
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4082	2.4451	2.36	2.48	2.4241

\*These rates vary according to bank.

**SOURCE: BANK LEUMI**

## GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; Superpharm London Ministore, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 698-0115.  
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Avner Gilad, 34 Weizman, Kfar Sava, 742-6826  
Netanya-Porat, 76 Pat, 634-0967.  
Haifa: Habankim, 5 Habankim, 851-

Pittsburgh, 955-8472,  
e-mail: info@...

**Police 100**  
**Fire 102**  
**First Aid 101**

**Magen David Adom**  
In emergencies dial 101 in most parts

Eilat 6332424  
 Hadera 8512233  
 Jerusalem 5523133  
 Haifa 04-42333  
 Safed 6920333  
 Tel Aviv 5-460111

**Ern - Emotional First Aid - 1201,**  
also Jerusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 546-  
1111 (children/youth 546-0739),  
Rishon LeZion 956-8661/2, Haifa 867-  
2222, Beersheba 649-4333, Netanya  
862-5110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kfar

**WHERE TO GO**

## WHERE TO GO

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